Factsheet Five

Mike Gunderloy
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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Staph

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails during the first week of February, May, August and November. Subscriptions are available at $2.00 (cash, check, MO or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at $2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for $5.00 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

	Unreduced	To be reduced
Full Page	7 1/2" x 9 3/4"	11 1/4" x 14 3/4"
Half Page	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	11 1/4" x 7 1/4"
Half Page	3 3/4" x 9 3/4"	5 1/2" x 14 3/4"
Quarter Page	3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	5 1/2" x 7 1/4"
Eighth Page	3 3/4" x 2 1/4"	5 1/2" x 3 1/4"
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"

Copy for FACTSHEET FIVE is reduced to 66% of its original linear dimensions. The first column shows width by height for ads to be run exactly as submitted, without reduction. The second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced along with the rest of the publication. Current advertising rates are:

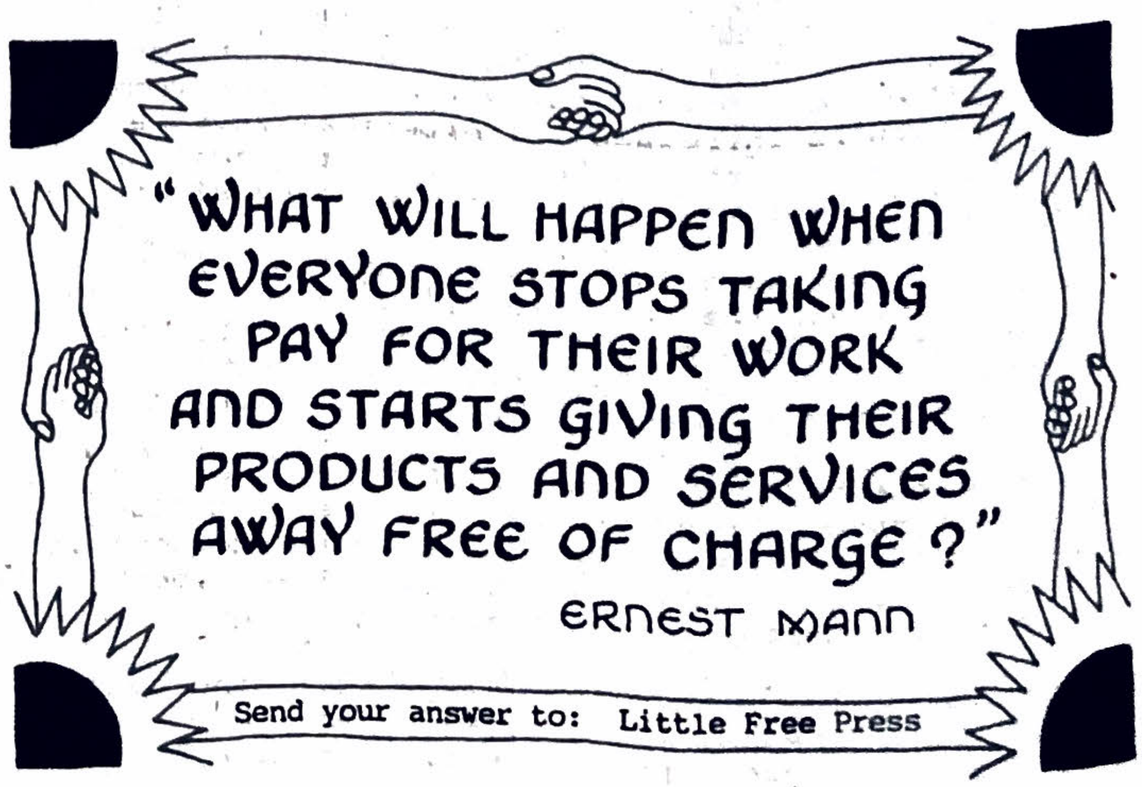
Full Page	$65.00
Half Page	$35.00
Quarter Page	$20.00
Eighth Page	$12.50
Business Card	$ 7.50

A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for an SASE.

A WORD ABOUT THE NEW NEW FORMAT:

Yes, I know that the paper isn't as nice as it used to be, but the price is a lot nicer. I may even be able to lower the cover price in the future if the circulation keeps rising. Cross your fingers.

I do plan to stick with this format for the foreseeable future. Please note that the ad sizes are somewhat smaller than they were. The new printer wanted wider margins. Also note that I've held the line on ad prices even though the circulation is up substantially. Isn't it about time for you to advertise in FACTSHEET FIVE?



Factsheet Five

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502: phone (518)-479-3086. This is Pretzel Press publication #698, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 1800 copies. 20th issue, November 1986.

*****

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label .

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "20", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "20" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, you bought a lifetime sub, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell ten copies or so and want to split the proceeds. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means that I expect to receive one copy of every issue you publish, however often they come out. If you're infrequent, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list. "T?" means that I'd like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/21") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. YOU MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO ISSUES, REGARDLESS OF THE MAILING CODE, TO CONTINUE GETTING FF!

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

*****

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: $2.00 (cash, check, money order or US stamps) per issue for a regular sub. I used to give a discount for payment in stamps but no longer -- the bookkeeping was too much. Those in the US can subscribe for $2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those in Europe can get Airmail delivery for $5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for $50. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter. So far there are two lifetime subscribers -- shouldn't you be the third?

Thanks to Donna Young, J.C. Brainbeau, Donald Sauter, Erik Kosberg, Bag of Water and Luke McGuff for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and $2. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to Mykel Board, Matt Love, Dennis McBee, Walt Noiseux, Ken Sutherland, Richard Peabody, Bag of Water, Bob Black, D. Galloway, Donna Kossy, Bismarck Idaho, Herb Ashe, Glen Humphrey, Martin Morse Wooster, Mike Reilly, Rand Reynolds, Phil Thornburg and Sean Haugh for sending zines for me to review in this issue.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, them's the breaks.

NEWS

I'd like to begin this column by welcoming all the folks who wrote me due to Ivan Stang's mention in the WHOLE EARTH REVIEW (who did not, by the way, send me a trade copy). Thanks for waiting patiently -- the last issue sold out and this one is a bit late. Sorry. It won't happen again. And please take note of this next announcement:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

FACTSHEET FIVE has had a new address for about 3 months now, and a lot of people still haven't noticed. Bulk mailers in particular should get their act together, but the forwarding order is going to expire soon as well. So PLEASE update your files to show me at:

Mike Gunderloy
FACTSHEET FIVE
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

*Katherine Nichols and the AC GAZETTE moved to 306 S. State #3, Champaign, IL 61820.

*THE BIG YEAH is now at PO Box 127, Dekalb, IL 60115.

*THE CLOSEST PENGUINS has ceased publication, but editor Denise Dee has moved to 254A Oak, San Francisco, CA 94102, where she plans to put out a BEST OF CP anthology and a new zine.

*END TIMES crossed town to 1085 14th St. #1234, Boulder, CO 80302.

*FLOATING UNIVERSITY goes down the street to 12028 Venice Blvd. #4-263, Mar Vista, CA 90066-3810.

*FOURTH WORLD is now at 819 Peacock Plaza, #609, Key West, FL 33040.

*FREFANZINE has moved south: c/o Sean Haugh, 1002 Arnette Ave., Durham, NC 27707.

*GARGOYLE is now at PO Box 30906, Bethesda, MD 20814.

*HANDICAP NEWS has relocated to 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601.

*HUMAN EXPRESSIONS editor Meg Wirk has moved to 1742 - 22nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122 (Meg's zine was previously called THE WIRKSHOP).

*Jeanne Mealy has moved to 4157 Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

*NANCY'S MAGAZINE crossed half the country to PO Box 02108, Columbus, OH 43202.

*The National Alliance of Pantheists are now at RR #1, Box 134, dennysville, ME 04628.

*PHOEBE and editor James MacDougall have been forcibly relocated to 1162 Routes 5 & 20, Waterloo, NY 13165.

*TIME WORM has slithered off to 37 E. Hudson St., Dayton, OH 45405.

*TWISTED IMBALANCE crossed town to PO Box 12504, Raleigh, NC 27605-2504.

*Unclean Records and UNZINE are both now at PO Box 161621, Austin, TX 78716.

*VIDEO DRIVE-IN is more properly reached at PO Box 32313, Columbus, OH 43232.

LOST ADDRESSES:

Anyone got a current address for these?

*THE ELEVEN THIRTY-FOUR

*SLOB RECORDS

*Someone from Grand Rapids who saw my ad in LEX sent $2 for a sample copy, but forgot to enclose any hint of a return address.

*J.D.S is a pfanzine from Canada thaat I received about two months ago. No return address.

*WONDERLAND: Actually, this is a special case. Several FF subscribers report not having had any reply to requests for copies. Does anyone know if WONDERLAND is still in business?

*****

HELP

From time to time I get requests for addresses that the FF archives cannot supply. Here's a couple problems for the FF readership to ponder:

*Ted at SEE HEAR (59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003) has a customer who wants to find some K/S (as in Kirk/Spock) zines. SEE HEAR, by the way, is a great friend to FF and a fine store, and you should visit when you're in town.

*Laurel (322 E. Court #7, Bowling Green, OH 43402-2503) is looking for YUMMY FUR. "It was a small (legal size/folded in half) comic book -- a bit disgusting but hilarious. Please help!"

<BULLETIN BOARD>>>>

OTHER NEWS:

*After 53 wonderful issues, Sherrie and Norm Lee are discontinuing HOMESTEADERS NEWS as part of their transplantation to Arizona. Though this journal of practical farming and self-sufficiency will be sorely missed, Sherrie & Norm plan to continue publishing a less-ambitious zine, tentatively titled GOOD LIFE NETWORK NEWS. Plans aren't firm as of my publishing date, but you can still write them at PO Box 517, Naples, NY 14512 for more details.

* The Avant Garde Museum of Temporary Art (1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703) announces "An International Mailart Network Project: MANIFESTOS/ MOVEMENTS 1986....All submissions should include the following: 1) Name of your movement. 2) Date founded. 3) Description of activities, media, influences, publications. 4) Founder. 5) Manifesto. 6) Any supporting information, graphics, articles, publications & recordings." Deadline is 12/31/86 and everyone gets a copy of the collected manifestos.

*YOSSARIAN UNIVERSAL NEWS SERVICE (PO Box 236, Millbrae, CA 94030) is offering laminated press cards to all comers for $10. Write for details.

*Robert Masters (co-author of MIND GAMES and other strange books) is now offering workshops and seminars in the "Psychophysical Method", a distillation of years of work. You can get in touch with him at PO Drawer 3300, Pomona, NY 10970.

*LIGHT ON THE BAY (555 Miramar, San Francisco, CA 94112) exists to popularize The Great Invocation, a non-denominational prayer for peace. They're working on producing a video to be shown worldwide.

*NEW RAGE (PO Box 11492, Eugene, OR 97440) is continuing the fine tradition of confusing revolutionary posters set by the late AAA. The latest is called "Extremities" and features fragmentary comments on life. Or something.

*CIRCLE (PO Box 29, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572) are having trouble with their local zoning officials, apparently because some citizens don't want a batch of godless pagans in the neighborhood. They request money and energy.

*VERSAND SCHERER (Neuer Weg 11, D-6140, Bsh.-Auerbach, WEST GERMANY) sells stamps, nude photos and adult mags through the mail. Send him a

couple of IRCs if you want to be on his mailing list.

*THE AGORIST INSTITUTE (236 E. Third St. #201, Long Beach, CA 90802) is giving a variety of hardcore libertarian courses. Write for more information. Send gold.

*VIDEOCONGRESS (PO Box 720, Venice, CA 90294-0720) produce an international series of arts videotapes.

*FOLK STAMPS (200 W. Mary, Austin, TX 78704) have a huge selection of rubber stamps, priced from about $2.50 to $7.

*In the wake of the recent drug-testing flap, a group has formed to promote the "piss-in mail-in". To participate, send a baggie of your urine to Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC.

*FLAT SURFACE GREETING CARDS (555 Brush #805 Dept. B3, Detroit, MI 48226) has come out with a line of all-purpose astrology greeting cards for $1.25 each.

*PROJECT FREENETWORK (PO Box 101, B1210 Brussels 21, BELGIUM) is compiling an international directory of libertarians and fellow travelers. They have a lot of information available already --send a couple of IRCs for more details.

*THE SOUTHERN CAREER INSTITUTE (PO Drawer 2158, Boca Raton, FL 33427-2158) is a mail-order school that will make you a paralegal for only $895.

*THE PLYMOUTH ROCK FOUNDATION (14 McKinley Cr. PO 425, Marlborough, NH 03455-0425) is a rabidly conservative Christian organization that puts out a free series of "FAC-Sheets".

*NORTHERN SUN MERCHANDISING (2736 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408) has a catalog of T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers, posters and so on for the left.

*Calvin Williamson & Angela Woodward (904 Rogers #2, Columbia, MO 65201) are interested in adding to their collection of 4000 found combs. Write for more details.

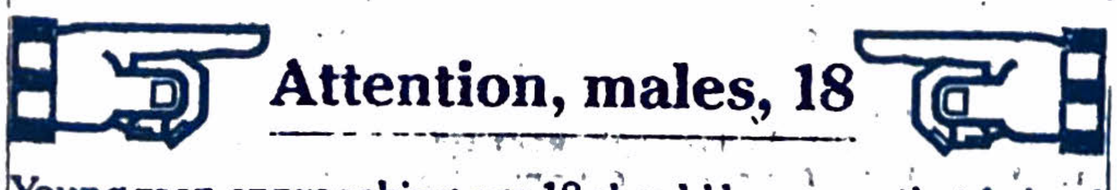
*LOVE 22 (PO Box 622, W. Kingston, RI 02892) is still running for President on his 22-plank platform. You can still get five $22 bills for a buck.

*BUDGET EUROPE (234 Nickels Arcade, PO Box 8401, Ann arbor, MI 48107) has a variety of publications available on, naturally, traveling about Europe without spending too much money.

*****

THE 800 FOLLIES

Seems like calling toll-free phone numbers to harass their owners is one of the most popular hobbies among my readership. Here's a few updates:



*CITIZENS FOR REAGAN: 1-800-851-3415

*The Army, or at least the folks at Fort Hood, have set up a toll-free hotline for reporting suspected spies. Unfortunately the news story I saw didn't give the number. Any help?

*There's now a group, TELEPHONE PICKET LINE VOLUNTEERS, promoting this stuff as a form of civil disobedience (no return address on their pamphlet). They give a list of companies who support politicians who vote for Contra aid. Send me an SASE for a copy of their pamphlet.

*Luke McGuff (PO Box 3680, Minneapolis, MN 55403) has produced a widely-reprinted flyer for the 800 club with a batch of new numbers. I'm sure he'd send you a copy for an SASE. Some samples: Falwell's new number: 800-368-3336; Marine recruiter: 800-843-8762; National We Tip hotline: 800-732-7463.

*The Alamo Christian Church (see next ish's HATE LIT section) is at 800-643-2545.

Harassment by telephone
It is a crime under both state and federal laws for anyone to make obscene or harassing telephone calls. These laws have penalties of imprisonment and/or a fine.

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS:

*I am finally prepared to offer the FACTSHEET FIVE mailing list on self-adhesive labels. At the moment this is only the full list, but in the near future I will be able to sort out, for example, only zines or only bands, so if that's what you want write for a price. This issue's list of roughly 1200 names is available for $24. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for $12.

*I am also prepared to offer the mailing list or the contents of FF itself (sans art) on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use on a second diskette. FF itself also takes up two diskettes. You can get either package of two diskettes for $12, or all four diskettes for $20.

*If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

*I am considering offering a special edition of FACTSHEET FIVE with full-size rather than reduced print. If there is anyone interested in this, please get in touch with me so I can work out the details.

*The Gemstone File is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of three different versions (something over 50 pages total) available for $5 total to those interested in this sort of thing -- and I'm looking for more versions if you have any.

*Announcing the FF ZINE EXCHANGE: Some folks send me extra copies of their zines, or sometimes more than one person sends the same zine for review. I hate to throw these away, so while the supply lasts, I'll mail out these spare zines to anyone who wants them. Send me an SASE with between 22¢ and $2 of postage and I'll send you whatever fits that I think you might enjoy. Zine editors, if you want to send me extra copies for this purpose, go right ahead.

*****

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

* If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing.

* On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

* On zines with a price under $1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage.

* Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S.

funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

* I'd appreciate it if you'd mention FACTSHEET FIVE when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

* If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

* If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

ZINES:

Sometimes people send me ads for zines rather than the zines themselves. Here's the dope:

*FOIST ($5/2 issues from PO Box 44, Penfield, NY 14526) is a "bi-annual photocopy'd arts collective".

*THE PROJECT ($20/yr from A-Albionic, PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220) is a journal investigating the British control of the world.

*RAMPIKE ($12/yr from 95 Rivercrest Rd., Toronto, ONT M6S 9Z9, CANADA) is a bilingual litmag.

*THE SORCERER'S SCROLLS ($1 from Tori Bergquist, c/o Cliffhanger Games, PO Box 117, San Simon, AZ 85632) is a monthly RPG magazine.

*SPECTRUM ($8 from B. Corbett, 762 Ave. "N" SE, Winter Haven, FL 33880) lists more than 1000 sources of little known and controversial information.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4, 17.1	$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14	$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	$3 each
Complete set	$35

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing ($2 issues) or xerox copies ($3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make. All of the issues from #4 through #18 were in digest format, 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. #19 was full-sized, 52 pages.

Æditorial

Some people put personal notes in copies of the zines they send me, and wonder why they don't get answers. Others ask why I take so long to answer their letters, or request locs on their own zines. Sorry, folks. Truth is, I'm surprised I even managed to find time to get out this FF.

In lieu of writing personally, I thought I'd take a little space to update those who know me and get acquainted with the rest of you. Life has been incredibly busy this summer and fall. Carolyn and I moved into our house in Rensselaer in late August and have been painting the outside, recovering wood floors on the inside, and generally adjusting to being homeowners. My graduate work at RPI started shortly thereafter, adding 500 pages of reading a week and 4 seminars to my already ridiculous schedule. I think the light at the end of the tunnel will come next summer, when classes are over and I'm "only" working on my thesis.

FF has weathered all of this because I think it's an important project, and one which I dearly love. I'd hoped to go to second class mailing with this issue, but the PO won't let me do that unless 50% of my mailing list is subscribers. And frankly, I can't afford to go on subsidizing this thing as I have been, not with mortgage payments to make. FF might shrink, though it won't die. What this all comes down to is, not exactly a plea for money, but rather a plea for subscribers. I'm sure most of you know somebody who ought to subscribe to FF. Do me a favor and share an issue with them and talk them out of the money. My track record is good. With a relatively modest increase in circulation -- say, 500 or so new subscribers -- FF would be in a lot better shape. And with second class mailing, your copies wouldn't get this tattered. Who knows, someday I might even be able to afford better paper again.

Anyhow, do what you can, and I'll be back again in February, hopefully back on schedule. Enjoy whatever holidays you're inclined towards.

Publisher's Choice

BLATCH #12 ($2.50 from Jim Blanchard, 741 Jenkins, Norman, OK 73069): Every now and then you run into a zine that is visually beautiful but not vacuous. BLATCH is one such. Jim is an artist and it shows in the care he lavishes on his layout and artwork.This issue features what is probably one of the last interviews the Minutemen ever gave, plus a Descendents interview. There are plenty of fanzine and music reviews and some nifty photos, plus a blockbuster finish: another portfolio of art from Jim and his buddies. Jim's stuff is incredibly detailed psychedelic pen-and-ink drawings which you have to see to believe -- I wish I could get some on T-shirts. How about it, Jim?

*****

THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKER #100 ($1 from PO Box 912, San Francisco, CA 94101): This is a special retrospective of the first 100 issues, double the usual size, and if they're smart they'll keep it in print as an intro to CN. Send at least $2 and beg for a copy and see what happens. CN is by and for people who live communally, but has expanded into the areas of collective work and grassroots community effort as well (issue 101 describes a successful attempt to set up a foodbank). There is plenty of nitty-gritty here on the details of writing contracts and holding meetings, as well as ideas on sex, jealousy, income and daily life when living collectively. A lot of positive energy here. Each issue also contains a community calendar and ads from houses seeking people and vice versa.

*****

THE GOLFING EXPERIENCE #1 ($3 from Aileen McNally, PO Box 20051, Cherokee Stn., New York, NY 10028): Aileen and co-editor Jill Cunniff have put together a great pfanzine here, heavy on the big-name interviews but spiced with all sorts of nifty other stuff. My favorite piece is an interview with Tania Aebi, who is not a famous punk star but rather an 18-year old who has decided to sail around the world. I hope she makes it. The big names I mentioned: Killdozer, Soul Asylum, Butthole Surfers, Jesus and Mary Chain, Frightwig...is that enough for one zine? Nice open layout with plenty of photos (this must have cost an arm and a leg to print) and some oddball fiction round out this one. The editors used to put out two other pfanzines, and combining their energies and contacts has resulted in a great product.

*****

GRUE #3 ($3.50 from Peggy Nadramia, PO Box 370, Times Square Stn., New York, NY 10108): A great new zine for the horror and fantasy buff, not slick and stuffy enough to be a prozine but too well written for the most part to be just another fanzine. A couple of the stories in this issue really stand out in my mind. Don Webb's "Transactional Analysis" is the tale of a future junkie trying desperately to make a deal for more of his drug, Time itself. Full of in-jokes and references to everything from Lovecraft to Hunter Thompson to ceremonial magick, this stylistic gem deserves wider notice. Elizabeth Massie's "Sweet Kitty" is more in the traditional horror story vein, dealing with the unexpected problems of trying to use a cat for evil ends. There's plenty more in these 80 pages, including a few poems, odd short stuff from Jessica Amanda Salmonson, and much curious artwork.

*****

JIM #3 ($2 (?) from Jim Woodring, PO Box 10075, Glendale, CA 91209): Back after a long absence but well worth waiting for, JIM will clear the cobwebs out of your mind, or at least replace them with new and disgusting fantasies. Composed of roughly equal parts of Jim's writing and his artwork, with a bonus assemble-it-yourself minicomic in the centerfold, this is an experience to be savored. I despair of describing most of it, but consider the rather bucolic picture on page 5: a disturbed-looking cow wearing overalls stands beneath a tree on which is pinned a drawing of a woodpecker, in front of the barn containing the giant turkey carcass. In the foreground a goat leers, while various objects drip down the barren hillside -- sort of Dali meets the family farm. The writing is pretty much an analog of the drawings, with a recipe for Hot Lobster, Avocado and Popcorn Salad rubbing shoulders with a story about a kitten resurrector. Also features fabulous offers including a weasel silhouette for the wee hours.

*****

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #10 ($3.50 from PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): I'll bet editor Steve Sikora didn't realize he was starting such an institution ten short issues ago. LEX is a way to find letter-writers who want to write about subjects that interest you; ads mention such subjects as Melville's novels, adoption, desert rats, Zen, polkas, and dry wines. Subscribers may advertise for correspondents for $5 for the basic ad, including free forwarding of replies. The success of LEX may be guaged from the fact that nearly 3,000 replies to listings in the previous issue have been forwarded. I've made several rewarding acquaintances and a friend or two through my own listings in and responses to LEX; if you write letters, you'll probably have the same experience. One caveat: make sure you have time to write more than you expect!

*****

LOOKOUT #21 ($10/12 issues from Lawrence Livermore, PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): With 1000 residents and 1 zine editor, Laytonville may have a higher proportion of zinesters per capita than anywhere else in the country. If that's the case, then quantity leads to quality, for LOOKOUT is a particularly fun though difficult to classify zine. Most of it is sort of anti-authoritarian, but not doctrinaire, and the politics is heavily leavened by a dose of music and current art. The cover article this time is a 20-year retrospective on illegal LSD, ranging from thoughts about its effects ont he mind to speculations on CIA involvement in the rise of the Hashbury. The letters section has expanded lately to encompass much debate, and things end off with some thoughts about fashion and how it blinds us to the wider possibilities of life -- sort of like LSD in reverse. "Truth, beauty, justice, pure unadulterated goodness; they all go hand in hand, and any one of them is as good a starting point as another."

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MALLIFE #11 ($1.97 from Mike Miskowski, Bomb Shelter Propaganda, PO Box 1393, Tempe, AZ 85281): Once loosely centered around that icon of modern American life, the shopping mall, this has now evolved into one of the premiere mail-art periodicals around. With some 50 contributors, including such well-knowns as Guy Beining, Dadata, Donna Kossy, Jake Berry, De Villo Sloan, Denver Tucson and Don Webb, this issue is bursting with the strange art and writings that mail artists generate. To appreciate the entirity of this project you really need a copy, but a few random samples may encourage you to get one. Glen Humphrey presents one of several ads for the CHurch of the SUbGenius; Jake Berry astounds with poems ranging from abstract to concrete; John Bennett scribbles as incomprehensibly as usual; and SP Stressman presents a series of disgusting anecdotes from the world of art. This is what the xerox machine was invented for. Check out the review of the cassette version of MALLIFE in our

MUSIC section.

*****

NEW LIBERTARIAN Vol. 4 #16 ($2.95 from NLCo, 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): This is the fifth special Revisionist History issue of NL, and it certainly packs a punch. The argument of RH, roughly, is that the history we are familiar with is written by the state, and that there is always some deeper truth behind it. Without question the best article here is Jeff Hummel's piece on how the US government treated its citizens during WWII; no, Virginia, it wasn't just Japanese-Americans who got pushed around. Complete with an extensive bibliographical essay, Jeff's article is sure to open some eyes. Also featured is Dean Ahmad on Middle East revisionism along with Eric Scott Royce's regular RH column, plus Robert Anton Wilson, Sam Konkin, Vic Koman and other NL regulars.

*****

PUNX #3 ($2 from 630 Hawthorne #6, Houston, TX 77006): This one starts with the punks but it certainly doesn't end there. These 64 pages of stunningly beautiful multi-colored printing hold a grand variety of viewpoints. Pictures of punks and band interviews rub shoulders with pictures from No Business As Usual '86 (the folks in these pictures, incidentally, do not look like doctrinaire commies) and articles on disinformation and what to do about it. There's Part 3 of an extensive history of punk rock in Houston, a retrospective on fanzines there over the years, and Noam Chomsky on Central America. Things seem to get more political as you near the end of the zine, with Big Mountain and Star Wars putting in an appearance, but there are still enough revolutionary graphics to keep things relatively light. If there were a hundred zines like this the country would be a healthier place.

*****

SHOE POLISH WEEK ($1 & SASE from 195 Garfield Pl. #2-L, Brooklyn, NY 11215): I laughed so hard I almost died. Imagine you took the old NATIONAL LAMPOON (when it was worth reading) and targeted it exclusively at the Left. The results might suggest, but not equal, SPW. Politically Incorrect with a vengeance, there is propaganda here from the Society for the Eradication of Adulthood, an article on the right way to drive drunk, dream dates with Holly Near, and a guide to becoming a Situationist without having to understand a word you're saying. All this is wrapped up with cartoons, collages, and snide political commentary. I don't know if this is a one-shot, but I sure hope not. Send lots of money so they can do it again.

*****

YELLOW SILK August 1986 ($4 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): This "Journal of Erotic Arts" is truly wonderful this issue. The physical look of YS has been improving steadily; now besides the 50 pages and slick color covers there are color interior illustrations, this time by Harry Weisburd, who does watercolors (I think) of the female form. Two of the stories in this issue stand out for me: Miriam Sagan's "Erotica" is a confusing journey through one psyche, while Lee Amato's "The Little Mermaid: 3000 A.D." is a science fiction erotic story, perhaps one of the best. Hidden in the letters section is a poem from Cerridwen Fallingstar that distinguishes between erotica and porn better than I ever could; if you want stroke literature, look elsewhere, but if you want an appreciation of the wonders of love and sex and people, look here. There is also a batch of poetry that I feel unqualified to comment on, as usual. I wish there were more zines that dared to be like YS; fuck the Meese Commission and the horse they rode in on.

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Students suspended for shirt statements

MENTOR, Ohio (AP) — High school officials alerted the Secret Service after two students were suspended for wearing shirts critical of President Reagan in the bombing of Libya.

But a Secret Service spokesman said Thursday the students did not pose a threat to the president and would not investigate further.

The Secret Service was called in after a student came to Mentor High School on Tuesday, the morning after the air strikes on Libya, wearing a dress shirt that said "I shot Reagan" and depicting the president with a bloody bullet hole in his head. School officials suspended the student for 10 days.

On Wednesday, school officials suspended another student for 10 days for wearing a black armband and a patch on the back of his flannel shirt that said, "End Reaganism before it ends you. I shot Ron Khadafy." The patch depicted the Statue of Liberty crucified on a cross of missiles.

Assistant Principal John Rintamaa said the students violated school board policy on student rights and responsibilities, including dress.

"We deemed the incident did not constitute any threat," said Ralph Basham, special agent in charge of the Secret Service in Cleveland. "As far as we are concerned, the incident is over."

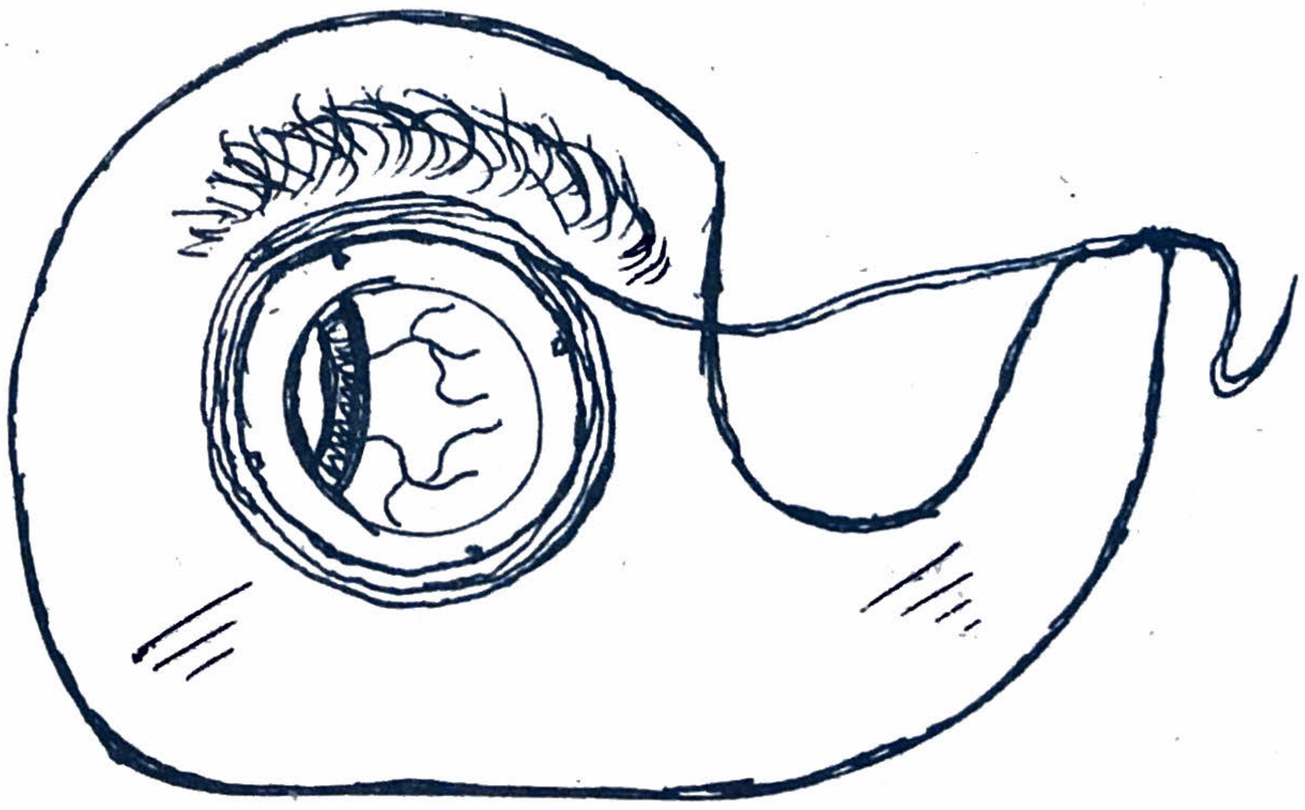
Superintendent Joseph Lesak said the school acted correctly.

"Obviously, it certainly is not acceptable, No. 1," Lesak said. "No. 2, I believe it's pretty clear under federal law subject to threats to the president.

"What I saw on the so-called shirt probably could be interpreted as that."

Basham said agents talked with the students, their parents, and school officials and determined the students were only expressing their opinions.

"I didn't threaten the president at all," said Jerry Beck, 17, who wore the armband and patch. "I can't understand why I can't just dress the way I want to."



ZINES

2600 Vol. 3 #8 ($2 from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752): A nice looking newsletter for the hacker and phone phreak, though of uneven quality. The lead article on Unix, for example, would get the novice nowhere, and spends too much time on logging in for the expert. But buried inside are very interesting bits of info, like how to make free pay phone calls in big cities. Along with stuff for and by hackers there are various technological stories reprinted from the mainstream press.

*****

THE 39 SCREAMS #4 ($10/6 issues from Thunder Baas Press, PO Box 1614, Baltimore, MD 21203): Black-and-white full-sized horror comic. The cover is suitably lurid, with assorted nasties ripping the heads off of people, but the interior stories in this isue are pretty ho-hum. For the most part, they're not well enough developed to be more than the sketch of a story, with the exception of Richard Peabody & Darrell Brown's "Fashion Victims". The back cover, though, redeemed the issue for me, with a poster for the "Shoes Across America" appeal to help poor Imelda Marcos.

*****

THE ACORN Vol. 1 #1 ($5/yr from Philosophy Dept., Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920): "A Gandhian Review" is the identifier on the masthead. This issue concentrates on articles from three Eastern spiritual teachers. The best is, I think, "Being Peace", by Thich Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese Buddhist, which cuts through layers of deceit to approach closely to some fundamental truths. ("Life is full of suffering, but it is also full of wonderful things like the blue sky...To suffer is not all.") Also works from Fujii Nichidatsu and Ham Sok Hon, as well as the editors. An uncompromising effort to seek self-purification without making "pop religion" out of difficult teachings.

*****

ADOPT-A-BEACH NEWSLETTER #1 (SASE (?) from Seattle Aquarium, Pier 59, Waterfront Park, Seattle, WA 98101): The idea behind this newsletter isn't completely spelled out since it is a report on an ongoing project. However, near as I can tell some folks have decided to get together and do what they can to revitalize the ecosystems in the Puget Sound area. Careful study followed by seeding with vegetation or marine organisms appears to be the basic plan, with decentralized community action as the method. Looks like an interesting project.

*****

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING #13 ($1 from DragonQuest, PO Box 7627, Menlo Park, CA 94026): This used to be called DRAGONSMOKE and is published by a couple of elementary school teachers who delight in making learning fun. There are several intertwined threads in their approach: computers, fantasy games and puzzles are prominent. Each issue contains a variety of suggestions for things to do with and without a computer, problems ranging from simple to very hard, and reviews of other materials available for programming or role-playing. Aimed at roughly the 6th-grade level but adjustable up or down.

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ADVENTURES IN THE MIRE Vol. 1 #2 (35¢ & SASE from Sarah Folkman, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A continuing minicomic from half of Carah Productions. In this issue Chelsea and her cat Darby seriously consider moving to another planet, but instead they end up heading for San Francisco. Things here seem too realistic for them to actually end up on another planet, but in a strip featuring a talking cat, who knows?

*****

AGENDA Vol. 1 #6 ($10/yr from PO Box 3624, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): Longtime FF readers will recognize a few names in this issue of "Ann Arbor's Newsmonthly": Bob Black and Gerry Reith both have things to say (Gerry's piece reprinted from a long-lost issue of STARK FIST). The news here is of a generally alternative nature, with the cover stories on the demise of the family farm and Star Wars research at the U of Michigan. There's also an extensive Community Resource Directory, with listings for Health, Environment, Poverty, Senior Citizens, Women's Issue and other groups.

*****

A.I.C.F. REPORT Vol. 5 #2 (On request from PO Box 525, Monterey, VA 24465): This used to be called BORDER WATCH, and now it's a pamphlet instead of a tabloid. It's still devoted to explaining the dangers of uncontrolled immigration and calling for stricter controls and enforcement of existing laws. This issue concentrates on the problem of drugs crossing our borders.

*****

ALTERNATIVE FICTION & POETRY #1 ($2.50 from 7783 Kensington Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60107): Those tuned into the underground will recognize a few familiar zinesters in these new pages: Elissa Rashkin, Trevor, and BobZ all toss in their two cents' worth. There are two strong stories in this first batch: Alison Robinson turns in "My Sweet Little Cynthia", the tale of an oral obsession turned insane, and Eric Gardner contributes "Disruptive", an after-the-revolution conspiratorial love story. Editor Philip Athans is looking for subscriptions, but only from authors and poets, not attorneys and managers, in an effort to fight the big business aspects of getting published.

*****

ALTERNATIVE PRESS #8 ($1.50 frm PO Box 1141, Aurora, OH 44202): Back after a six-month absence, this ambitious music tabloid looks better than ever. There's a fascinating editorial from Mike Shea explaining the past and future directions of AP which would give pause to anyone thinking of a Big Zine. In two sections and about the poundage of a small-town daily paper, AP covers a whole mess of live shows from Northeast Ohio, and then goes on to interview the groups and review some records. In this issue: Fuzztones, Robyn Hitchcock, Cherry Bombz, Mitch Easter, Lords of the New Church, Red Lorry Yellow Lorry, and much more. Unlike most zines, they're not pressed for space, so the reviews and interviews tend to go into some depth.

*****

AMERICAN FORUM #79-80 ($19.95/yr from Box 261, Dept. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): I've been getting this one since it started and I'm still not sure what it's about. "For the opinionated", says the masthead, and they do hear from the opinionated, although they have pretty wierd opinions sometimes. This issue features an article on "Communist liberal arts" and a recap of the last two TLC International meetings, one on necrophilia and one on sex in a car (complete with demonstration).

*****

AMERICAN LIVING #18 ($2 from PO Box 901, Allston, MA 02134): Mail Artists at work in a digest-sized format. Printed on a variety of bright colors of paper, AL features a series of collages and drawings. The juxtaposition of images without an overall plan describes it as well as anything else. Interesting to leaf through, but of little lasting cultural value.

*****

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Vol. 39 #3 ($1 from PO Drawer A, Scottsdale, AZ 85252): A monthly conservative tabloid "To save American independence - private property - personal freedom - save the Constitution". This issue views in horror lectures at West Point on disarmament and reprints a congressional scorecard that gives Jesse Helms a 95 and Teddy Kennedy a 13. This is actually useful; one need only subtract the printed ratings from 100 to determine how good one's congressman is.

*****

THE AMERICAN SUNBEAM #600 (On request from PO Box 107, Seligman, MO 65745): I have no idea what this is about and I'm not sure the author, Delamer Duverus, does either. Full of unconnected ravings about the dangers of genetic engineering, the "alien Pharisees" who run our government, the KAL007 incident, and the millenial utterances of one "Je Sus Immanuel". Strange stuff. This issue was published in 1983, so I don't know whether they're still out there or in the nuthouse by now.

*****

ANARCHAFEMINISM ($1.50 from Creative Anarchists Networks, 1728 W. Ball Rd. #4, Anaheim, CA 92804): A new publication from the folks who bring you A NEW IRON COLUMN. This one concentrates exclusively on feminist issues and is a first attempt at organizing a strong anarchafeminist group in Southern California. The contents are reprinted from a variety of sources, with the bulk being two essays: Sheila Ruth's "The Dynamics of Patriarchy" and Alix Shulman's "Organs and Orgasms".

*****

ANARCHY #12 ($3/6 issues from CAL, PO Box 380, Columbia, MO 65205): The Columbia Anarchist League is still managing to put out their tabloid on a stunningly regular schedule, and this issue even contains as a stuffer the latest copy of THE GENTLE ANARCHIST, complete with anarchist light-bulb jokes. Coverage is local, national (the Haymarket gathering) and international (South Africa), with nice layout and graphics. There's a wide range of styles here as well, so whether you want just the news, revolutionary strategy, or verbal amusement, there's something enjoyable here.

*****

ANOTHER MOTHER #2 ($8.50/6 issues from PO Box 300-126, Minneapolis, MN 55403): A newsletter aimed at women who have chosen to stay home with children rather than take advantage of the current daycare and latchkey fads. Much of the contents is local to the Twin Cities, including a list of events to take your kids to and notes on where to find babysitters (only $3 an hour for college kids???). There's also an article in this issue on adjusting to the Zen of parenthood and ordering your activities around the child's schedule.

*****

ANTIMEDIA #16 (65¢ from Zeno, 7747 16th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115-4363): This is the special boycott ish of Antimedia, and it's pretty thorough without going into great depth (addresses of other organizations are listed for those who want to find out more). Besides the usual list of bad nasty companies there's a list by type of product, which is much more useful. This is where you find out that Sun Giant dried fruits, for example, come to you courtesy of major defense contractor Tenneco. My only complaint is the squeezed-in print, but perhaps I'm in no position to throw stones.

*****

ANT SPOIM #1 ($1 (?) from Estraven, PO Box 1216, Fairlawn, NJ 07410): This is something like a READERS DIGEST for the skeptical anarchist. All reprints, but all stuff worth reprinting, including Bob Black's essay "Anarchists, anarchism, and other impediments to anarchy", a couple of Sevcik drawings, some animal rights stuff, thoughts on fallout shelters, and a couple of nekkid girls discussing the pros and cons of vegetarianism. Favorite quote: "I guess that's what anarchy is really all about. Jumping around and beating up things."

*****

APAS

I thought it might be nice to collect all of the amateur press associations in one place. For those of you not familiar with the term, an apa is a little magazine written by its readers and put together in some central place. Any reader is encouraged to contribute, and interesting conversations evolve over time.

ALARUMS & EXCURSIONS #134 ($2.19 from Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90066): The original apa for Dungeons & Dragons players, this one has long since expanded to cover FRP of all types. With the welter of conflicting rules systems out there, stories of completed adventures and general discussions of past technology are more popular than game-specific stuff, but there is still something for everyone in the field. A&E is unusual in that it has many more readers than writers, so the folks writing sometimes act like they're onstage. A fun place to hang around and chat about ronin and fire-breathing pickles.

APA-EROS #5 (Sample issue SASE & state over 18 from Sylvia, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487): As the title suggests, this one is about sex and a myriad of associated topics: lifestyles, relationships, nudism, turn-ons, and just what feels good. A-E has been growing rapidly and is producing some quite intense sharing as well as more mechanical discussion and even the occasional graphics.

APA-RENGA #3 ($5 from Tundra Wind, PO Box 429, Monte Rio, CA 95462): The $5 serves to open an account from which costs are then deducted (this is common apa practice). A-R is a new idea in the field, a co-operative poetry apa. Verses are sent in by the various contributors as continuations to existing contributions or the start of new lines. The poetry then evolves in a tree fashion, sort of like parallel worlds are supposed to do under QM. Based on the traditional Japanese renga form, this is a very Western but very interesting way of doing poetry.

APA-TAROT #10 (Contact Rita Prince Winston, 254 S. Mariposa #10, Los Angeles, CA 90004): You shouldn't need to put on your thinking caps to divine the focus of this one. After ten issues, A-T is up to a healthy 15 contributors, and there's plenty of room for more. Some people do Tarot readings in their zines, some compare the cards from various decks, some wander off into related topics like other forms of divination. Attitudes range from commitment to skepticism, and the overall atmosphere is quite friendly.

THE CONNECTION #138 ($2 from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304): This one takes in submissions as camera-ready copy and puts them out as around 100 pages of reduced print. Topics discussed include quantum mechanics, natural moral law, technology, Ayn Rand, libertarian communities and other straaange topics.

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #19 (50¢ from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): Sold on a subscription rather than an account basis, this one is for the "third force" socialists , those who are neither Leninists nor social democrats. Anarchists and other leftwingers are welcome also, although the political terminology here may be unfamiliar at first. Much concern with building a new society.

FLOATING UNIVERSITY #5 (SASE from 12028 Venice Blvd. #4-263, Mar Vista, CA 90066-3810): This is an attempt to exchange information and teach folks interesting stuff via the mail, with the idea of drawing on the members as sources of info. So far there have been lessons in various foreign tongues

and Gregg shorthand, but it looks like the member list is finally taking off and more subjects are due soon. Also contains ads from people offering personalized tutoring of one sort or another.

FREFANZINE #60 (About $1 from Sean Haugh, 1002 Arnette Ave., Durham, NC 27707): Fref has changed hands a couple of times lately, but with any luck Sean and Co-OE Mike Grubb will stabilize the apa. Still "the only libertarian sci-fi apa in the entire friggin' universe", Fref has suffered from dropping contributions and increased nastiness in print for a year or so, but may be bouncing back. When it's healthy, this is the best place I know of to relax and talk about anarchy and freedom with freewheeling lunatics.

GREEN POLITICS MANY-TO-MANY #4 ($6 to join from Action Linkage, PO Box 2240, Wickenburg, AZ 85358): The Many-to-manys (MTMs) are an independent invention of the apa format from Action Linkage, a group of people working on shaping the future. The MTMs are now open to participation from those outside of AL. Be sure to specify which one you'd like to join. This one is concerned with practical political strategies for a more "Green" society.

MONDRAGON TYPE COMMUNITIES MANY-TO-MANY Sept. 1986 ($6 to join from Action Linkage, PO Box 2240, Wickenburg, AZ 85358): Another one of the AL MTMs. This has some overlap with the Green Politics version, but concentrates more on the forming and preservation of intentional communities. The Mondragon communities in Spain are the exemplar that serves to guide the discussion.

SRAF BULLETIN 97 ($1 from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): It's beginning to look like this anarchist apa will reach #100 and surprise a lot of people. For many ex-members, SRAF is the apa you love to hate, as the open membership and no censorship policies (which have weathered several strong challenges) openthe pages to assholes of all stripes. Despite this there are still interesting thoughts here from Bob Shea, Ernest Mann and others who at least agree with the goal of anarchism.

*****

ARCHE-TYPE MORALITY #13 (SASE from Annie, 1494 W. 103rd Pl., Denver, CO 80221): This is a single-page poster interim issue of ATM, designed ot be hung on your wall (if you dare to post a picture of Raygun's polyps). It's just to let people know that the scene is alive in Denver, doing reasonably well, and the Annie intends publishing full-size issues again any day now.

*****

ARMAGEDDONQUEST #2 ($1.50 from Starhead Comix, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Ronald Russell Roach's serial novel about the Great Beast continues. In this installment the boy Tazio learns of his identity, if not his destiny, and starts to struggle with the various forces seeking to mold his life. Sex, death, heaven, hell -- it's all here, in this 44-page b&w comic.

*****

ARTITUDE #12 (50¢ from Carl Howard, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): This is a tabloid of the extreme in musical culture, occasionally penetrating so far as to be nearly incomprehensible. I was surprised but fascinated to open this issue and find an article on the musical ideas of Hermetic philosopher Robert Fludd. There are also interviews with Mike Gira (Swans) and the publishers of ND magazine, as well as other chewy stuff. For the serious audiophile, not the occasional punk.

*****

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED #2 ($1 from Rich Assembly [checks to D. Alvarez], 74-334 Peppergrass, Palm Desert, CA 92260): Is there life in Palm Desert? Well, sort of. Enough to support one pfanzine, anyhow. A few interviews here, some decent photos, and an alternative reality story about taking over FLIPSIDE magazine by force. I think the sun has probably broiled this guy's brain.

*****

ATOMIC COMIX #6 (SASE from PO Box 14822, Gainesville, FL 32604): Cleanly-drawn little book with a couple of continuing features. "3 Mile Island Family" are my favorites (this month they visit Kiev), but that may only be because I don't understand "Pissing Dog". This issue comes with a supplement, "Atomic Skate Comix", featuring mostly the adventures of the Skaters From Space.

*****

AUSTRALASIAN SURVIVOR #28 ($3 cash/Int'l Bank Order from PO Box E457, Queen Victoria Tce., A.C.T. 2600, AUSTRALIA): Definitely the sanest and most impressive survivalism magazine I've seen. The editors do sell a variety of guns and canteens and survival food and whatnot, but the bulk of the journal is concerned with practical advice rather than hawking their own wares. Stuff here on making a cutting board, lo-tech bread, proper use of knives, black powder rifles, and a lot more. Some consumer reviews of various survival items as well, and a relative lack of "the world is ending tomorrow, buy our stuff" writing.

*****

AWAY FROM THE PULSEBEAT Winter 1986 ($3 from PO Box M1842, Hoboken, NJ 07030): 100 pages of opinionated sounding-off about punk and stuff like that. Lengthy coverage of Meat Puppets, Alex Chilton, Fuzztones, Steve Fallon, Jesus and Mary Chain lead off. There's a rundown of bands in the Austin area and a few notes on live shows, but the heart of this is the fifty pages or so of record reviews, ranging from two lines to half a page. Editor Art Black may have idiosyncratic tastes, but he leaves no doubt about what they are. Nice typesetting and a slick color cover too. Worth the money.

*****

BABUSHKIN'S DIGEST Vol. 2 #8 (Donation from L. Bush, PO Box 128, Rosendale, NY 12472): The brainchild of an unreconstructed Jewish atheist anarchist, this one takes a great pride in being inscrutable. Lots of letters from happy digesters and a page designed to garner the condemnation of the Meese Commission are the highlights of this issue. A fine example of publishing on a shoestring.

*****

BAD MEAT Summer 1986 ($1 (?) from Mark Tyler, 412 Fleetwood, Bartlesville, OK 74006): About half of this issue is taken up with the contents of Mark's mailbag, from a letter congratulating him on making the Dean's list to some stuff from the No Business As Usual folks. The rest is your standard pfanzine, with record, show and pfanzine reviews and some nice space art done by Mark himself.

*****

BAD NEWZ #2 ($1.50 [checks to Robert Z.] from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): This is the "Women in Punk" issue of this pfanzine, containing interviews with SCAB and PMS. BN has a collage layout that features SubGenius and anarchist images as well as those detourned from the mass media. The other main feature here is the punk poetry (BN is trying to be an organ of "punkture"), most of which is pretty gloomy, as you might expect. There's a poetry reading cassette available for $4 from the same address, which will be reviewed in the next FF.

*****

THE BALTIMORE MUSIC REVIEW #4 (SASE (?) from Mark Reeve, PO Boc 33398, Baltimore, MD 21218): A nice-looking 4-page quickie from someone who seems to have discovered the small press world independently and is now fascinated by what he's fallen into. This issue reviews 5 cassettes in pretty fair depth (the secret is reduced print) and

then runs a long interview with Richard Peabody of GARGOYLE. Musical tastes seem varied but are biased towards good production.

*****

BAND AGE #1 ($1 from Edward Dean, PO Box 1539, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A new pfanzine which promises "all music/no bullshit", which the editors interpret to mean concentration on music as opposed to trendiness, politics or fads. This intro issue features budding syndicated columnist Gary Pig Gold on selling out, interviews with Camper Van Beethoven and Barnicle Choir, and lots of record reviews. Watch to see what they do when they run out of local bands to talk about.

*****

BANG! #13 ($1 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): BANG! has gone typeset, and it's a nice new look. The format is still the same, though, with interviews and articles about a whole batch of bands in every issue. This time you can say hello to Scraping Foetus Off the Wheel, the Mod Fun, Executive Slacks, and the Damned, among others. Also a passle of record reviews and nice photography throughout.

*****

BEEF #19 ($12/yr from 659 Haight, San Francisco, CA 94117): This issue of the SF tabloid art & culture mag leads off with a Yoko Ono interview, but really, it's not all bad. A few pages later there is a much more interesting interview with Starhawk, and further on one gets the reviews of performances, music and words one expects. The covers and centerfolds are artworks in themselves.

*****

BEYOND AVALON Vol. 1 #2 ($2 from 93 Jackson Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606): This zine is "intended to explore, enhance, and document the growing spiritual awareness in our society." It does this within a New Age framework; the major article in this issue is an interview with the new Seth, as channeled by Jean Loomis. Unfortunately most of what Seth has to say strikes me as mystic pap. Much more interesting to this engineer were the article on lucid dreaming and the interview with a past-life regression therapist. I'd class this as uneven but promising.

*****

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER August 1986 ($12/yr from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406-3194): There actually is precious little science in this tabloid dedicated for the most part to Creationism. The overwhelming majority of the material presented seeks to poke holes in the evolutionary view of the origin of species, with variable success. This issue also reports on the "Ark-a-Thon" meeting of people searching for Noah's Ark, at which an allegedly eyewitness account of the current state of the Ark was provided.

*****

BIBLICAL ERRANCY (75¢ from Dennis McKinsey, 3158 Sherwood Park Dr., Springfield, OH 45505): I have no reason to doubt their masthead: "The only national periodical focusing on Biblical errors, contradictions, and fallacies, while providing a hearing for apologists". In other words, Dennis thinks the Bible is full of nonsense and enjoys arguing this with hardcore believers. For some reason they keep writing, probably in some hope of converting him to the truth. This issue wonders how 8 people took care of the world's largest zoo on the Ark.

*****

BIG YEAH 6 ($1 from Mike Greenlees, PO Box 127, DeKalb, IL 60115-0127): Pfanzine that doesn't give a shit who it offends. Mike and co-editor Michelle Thoma have decided that they weren't getting enough contributions, so they wrote nearly the whole zine themselves, and it sounds like they were a bit pissed about having to do it. The record reviews in particular lambaste everyone, even *gasp* Nick Cave or R.E.M. Well, they do like some things, but the bad reviews are more fun to read. Also fanzine reviews and interviews with Bloodsport and Great Plains (the latter billed as "probably one of the worst interviews ever").

*****

BINARY LOAD LIFTER #2 ($2 or The Usual from Patrick Rael, 804 Dryden St., Silver Spring, MD 20901-1822): Patrick is new to the underground, so he writes from the perspective of a human being who's simply fascinated by all this bizarre stuff invading his mailbox. The record and fanzine reviews here are longer than one usually finds in a zine as he seeks to analyze in detail what's going on out there -- certainly more depth than one usually finds in such things. There's also articles about terrorism and exploitation and an excellent sense of the graphic incorporated in this issue. Good contacts.

*****

BITCH #10 ($1.75 from San Jose Face, 478 W. Hamilton Ave. #164, Campbell, CA 95008): "The Women's Rock Newsletter With Bite" is pretty much just that -- written by women, mainly about women, and with a sort of acid overtone that's actually refreshing. The coverage of women rockers is here -- Deborah Iyall (ex-Romeo Void), The Hunted and Suzy Saxon & The Anglos get major press in this issue. There's a lot of other stuff though, including letters, book reviews, a review of a clothing store, a guide to dealing with drug ODs, and an article on groupies. This tabloid is quite a bit more than just punks in skirts.

*****

BLACK MARKET #5 ($1.50 from 405 W. Washington St. #212, San Diego, CA 92103): This hardcore pfanzine is experimenting with color printing, slick covers, stickers and art by MacIntosh. The contents aren't bad either -- lotsa reviews, plus interviews with the likes of LA Guns, Faster Pussycat, and GBH. Also lots of comics, most with no social redemption at all.

*****

BLANK EXPRESSION #1 (Free (?) from Wah Productions, 1642-24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122): Desktop publishing comes to pfanzines. Reviews of Mojo Nixon, Husker Du, Butthole Surfers, Cocteau Twins and an interview with Blue Movie take up the bulk of the pages here. There's also a couple of pages of rambling poetry.

*****

BLASTING CAPS FOR BOB #1 (50¢ (?) from Winged Monkeys of Miami Subclench, 381 NE 20 St., Miami, FL 33137): Low-budget zine of Subgenial collage and drawings. No real point here. 9 pages of mail art.

*****

BLESSING LETTER (PO Box 837, Denver, CO 80201): The thoughts of John David Blessing from the House of Prayer For All People. This issue contains his thoughts on Christian unity, and warns against an amalgamation of denominations, calling instead for a return to lone voices crying out in the wilderness. Quote without comment: "When men think right, they will think alike."

*****

THE BLOTTER #7 ($1.50 from 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, ONT, M4L 3P3 CANADA): "Surrealist Issue" of this litmag with mostly short stories and a sprinkling of poetry. Most of the stories seem to be the sort of violent wishful thinking many of us indulge in: you know, get a gun, change the system, off some fascists as the world goes to pot, that sort of thing, set in the near future and intended to either highlight the futility of resistance or the possibility of a lone man changing things. At least some of them, particularly "His Father's Son", by T. Angle, are well written. Nothing particularly surrealist here except for the cover, though.

*****

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Vol. XL #1 (Donation from Loyola IHR, Loyola University, Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): Every issue of BFSJ is a special issue, as they concentrate on one social problem or idea per issue, arguing from a (usually) activist Christian viewpoint. In this issue Sandy Boshart lets his mind roam free over the concept of poverty, arguing that the spiritual poverty of the rich is as much a part of the problem as the material poverty of the poor, and seeking solutions which could address both problems at once.

*****

BLUE SUEDE NEWS Vol. 1 #4 ($8/yr from PO Box 25, Duvall, WA 98019): This is a pfanzine for those who prefer the roots of rock and roll, right back into the blues. This means that they devote space both to the classics -- Bill Haley, Chuck Berry, Carl Perkins -- and the new bands that play in the same genre -- Jr. Cadillac, Sparky & The Starfires, Duffy & The Rhythm Dogs, to name a few. The new music coverage concentrates on the Northwest, but there are a couple of album and zine reviews here as well. Nice production and a good guide to area clubs.

*****

BOSTON LITERARY NEWS July 1986 ($1.50 from PO Box 1463, Cambridge, MA 02238): That's too much to pay for four pages, even if they are typeset. Article about SF writers in the Hub area, interviwe with Mary Robison, the lowdown on Alice James Books and a calendar of local readings and autograph parties fill this issue. I get the impression this is aimed at the great mass of unpublished writers out there who want to feel like they're part of the literary scene.

*****

BOUND TOGETHER NEWSLETTER #8 (Donation from Bound Together Bookstore, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): BT Books is run by a more-or-less anarchist collective, and this pamphlet-sized baby is the product of some of the collective members. This issue has some stuff on the recent interest in toll-free telephones, some thoughts on a demonstration against The Gap moving onto Haight Street, a couple of letters and a list of new arrivals at the bookstore. For the most part, BTN has stayed above the sectarianism that pervades the anti-authoritarian scene; even when they've been involved in controversy, the good humor has shown through. A good example of how to get some thoughts on the streets in an attractive fashion without becoming yet another theoretical journal.

*****

BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT #10 ($1.25 from 1827 Haight St. #188, San Francisco, CA 94117): A pfanzine that doesn't take anything seriously, least of all itself. Tom Jones record reviews, interview with Pete Townshend, Gobo's record reviews (he hates everything) and reviews of books on Big Rock Stars. A good break from reading far too many socially-conscious zines. And remember, "Friends don't let friends type drunk".

*****

BUDDHA MOODIST PUNK ZEN DETECTIVE (25¢ & SASE from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Collector's-item minicomic with script by Shane Williams and art by Carrie. Buddha is an interesting guy with spiked hair, a strange appetite, and a completely disjointed way of solving his cases. One of those characters who only wanders in once, and it's just as well. Hey, try it -- what can you lose for a quarter?

*****

BUF-O September 1986 (TRADE ONLY from Klaus Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): Imagine that all your friends interested in comics and horror and crappy movies and that sort of thing all pulled up in front one day to shoot the breeze. OK, transfer that to the written page and you have BUF-O. Klaus does most of the talking here, but he does print stuff from his readers as well. In this issue we have a look back at the comics of C.C. Beck (I never knew Otto Binder did comics as well as SF!) and the start of a short story by James Ahearn.

*****

BUILDING ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES Spring 1986 ($1.50 from Co-op America, 2100 M. Street NW #310, Washington, DC 20063): This one says it's "to provide people with practical strategies for integrating their economic choices with their politics, lifestyles and values". This issue focuses on alternative tourism, with ideas on how you can visit the third world without being the typical American asshole. Also has a batch of news and resources.

*****

BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS Vol. 4 #3 ($26.50/yr from Meckler Publishing, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport, CT 06880): For the person with a personal computer, a modem, and an ample budget for the phone bill. This issue has a rundown of 47 different programs to let you set up a BBS, as well as in-depth articles on a couple of systems, ads from more, legal news and more. A bit pricey, but if you can afford the phone bill this is probably small potatoes.

*****

BUZZ Vol. II #10 ($6/4 issues from PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): Right across the river from the new FF headquarters is home to this local music and arts tabloid. Concentrates for the most part on publicizing what's going on: listings of clubs and concerts, local comedy, what the college radio stations are playing, and so on. Also prints a handful of record reviews and a bunch of neat ads from other local stuff.

*****

THE BVI GROUP

Imagine you were out of reasons to live and then suddenly hit on the idea of a franchised fanzine. Well, that may not be how it happened, but somehow there are a whole batch of people doing zines under the BVI moniker. Here's the ones I've gotten recently.

BVI-CENTRAL Vol. 5 #3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 81623, Lincoln, NE 68501-1623): This issue seems to be made up of a cross between journal excerpts and poetry, revealing the slide into gibbering madness of the editor. Notable excerpts: "Life's a joke or a riddle, that you solve on your deathbed, and the longer you live - the funnier it becomes." "Self pity is really quite enjoyable. I'm having a Great Time."

BVI-CENTRAL Vol. 5 #5 ($1 from J. LeRoy, PO Box 81623, Lincoln, NE 68501-1623): Fortunately the inscrutable J. seems to have recovered for this issue. Here is told the story of the near demise of the BVI publishing empire, followed by some oddball stories on photo backgrounds and Dave Fisher's comics. A return to normalcy.

BVI-NORFOLK: See the CASSETTEZINE section of the MUSIC reviews for the current issue.

BVI-PACIFICA Vol. 2 #1 ($2 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): This is the Church of the SubGenius infiltration of the BVI group, with help from some of America's most notorious free spirits. Jake Berry, Bob Black and others of the lunatic fringe appear here to confuse and confound the normally complacent BVI reader. PACIFICA vacillates between humor and subversion, with a bit of good old-fashioned magick thrown in for good measure.

BVI-SOUTH #4 ($1 from Simon G. Bone, PO Box 582, Lewisburg, TN 37091-0582): By the listing in the front of this issue there are now 12 BVI franchisees. SOUTH still features the phony wire service stories that were an early mainstay of BVI, but there's a lot more here now. Notable is that

campaign to send mail postage due to the United Klans of America [PO Box 3191, Knoxville, TN 37927-3191] on occasion of their 25th anniversary, and the lowdown on ripping off mail-order record sellers.

BVX-INTERNATIONAL Vol. 2 #1 ($1 from PO Box 11101, Englewood, CO 80151-1101): The title comes from the fact that they've dug up a couple of agents in London. High point of this issue is the ad campaign to come up with a new image for Jesus Christ, and it's not all that high.

You too can become a BV1 franchisee for only $10. Write CENTRAL or SOUTH for more details.

*****

CAAC NEWS Summer 1986 (Donation from Central America Action Committee of Thurston County, PO Box 7454, Olympia, WA 98507): No-nonsense news from a batch of folks trying to keep everyone else informed about what's going down in Central America. Mostly consists of firsthand reports from people who've visited El Salvador,, Nicaragua, Honduras and so on, rather than reprinted stuff from other journals. Also includes suggestions on who to contact to complain, including a couple of interesting phone numbers: 011-503-26-7100 will get you the US Embassy in San Salvador, while President Duarte's palace is at 011-503-24-1942.

*****

CANCER ($1.25 from 4222 Naugle Dr., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410): A pfanzine that is not afraid to take a social stand, in fact many of them. These range out from discussion of events within the punk community (such as the alleged misconduct of Mystic Records) to more global concerns like food, peace, and vivisection. The layout does a good job of being gonzo without being so cluttered as to be unreadable, and there are enough record reviews to identify the genre without them becoming a sea of sameness.

*****

CAN WE NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 #6 (35¢ from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814): Published by Citizens Against Nuclear Weapons and Extermination, this little tabloid mainly focuses on their local activities and concerns. Living where they do, the Hanford reactor and disposal site is of primary concern, which leads the naturally to food irradiation, since the cesium capsules are produced at Hanford. They appear to be involved in a variety of actions and lawsuits, but it's hard to tell what they are as there are mainly progress reports here rather than explanations. Some contact addresses and a list of nuclear-free zones.

*****

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 6 #8-9 (Donation from Friends For Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Cathedral Finance Station, New York, NY 10025): A newsletter dealing with the internal politics of all those little island nations the average American can't tell apart. They're the only people I know still following the news from Grenada, where some of the folks we identified as the Bad Guys when we invaded are still on trial. There's also quite a bit on the elections in Jamaica and what they mean for the people of that country, plus news from around the region.

*****

CARNAGE #1 ($1 from Rusty Short, 2712 Windswept Cove #104, Austin, TX 78744): One for the fans of Ed Gein and friends. The Wisconsin lampshade-maker doesn't show up in this comic, but plenty of similar folks do: Albert Fish, John Wayne Gacy and Fritz Haarmann all get their turn in the spotlight. Bits of text on the exploits of these gentlemen are mixed in with truly tasteless blood-and-guts drawings.

*****

CENTRAL AMERICA PEACE INITIATIVE (Donation from 1022 W. 6th St., Austin, TX 78703): Another group keeping tabs on what's going down in Central America. This newsletter is notable for its balance; along with a condemnation of US contra aid, the Nicaraguan government's actions against the press and church in their own country are also reported. There is news here that I haven't seen elsewhere, and a letter from someone who is now living in Nicaragua which gives a picture of daily life there (difficult but hopeful).

*****

CHEAPSKATE COMIX #1 (10¢ & a stamp from Fatalistic Funnies, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304): "You get what you pay for", it says on the cover of this ultra-minicomic (microcomic?). And what you've paid for doesn't include plots, although the surrealistic drawing style of CE Emmer still comes through. If you want this, wehy not send a buck or two and get some of the other Fatalistic stock as well?

*****

CHRISTIAN DATING CLUB (PO Box 27123, Golden Valley, MN 55427): No price on the newsletter, they'll probably send it if you ask. WARNING: They print names and addresses of everyone who writes for info. A club that claims to be for dedicated Christians seeking someone to marry. Sample questions: "State the name of your doctor and his phone number", "Do you agree that when a divorced person remarries, they commit adultery?", and "Should a pre-engaged couple privately read the Bible and pray together sometime during each date WITHOUT SITTING CLOSE TO EACH OTHER?". Recorded message available at 612-924-6056.

*****

CITE' GUIDE Vol. 1 #3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 84843, Seattle, WA 98124): This is a franchised "Gay Community Magazine", with editions in a dozen cities and a publisher looking for more associates. It looks to me like not much of this was written locally -- much of the issue is interviews or reviews of national entertainment -- Joan Collins, a Broadway play, stuff like that. A lot of concern with whether beauty is more than skin-deep, with articles on bodybuilding and attractiveness. Might grow, but for now give it a miss.

*****

THE CITIZEN'S CLAW July/August 1986 ($2 cash/postal MO from PO Box 441, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): This is the special 3rd anniversary issue of this Constitutionalist zine. It leads off with a long article from leader S.A. Freeman on the state of the "movement" today, which he sees as fairly dismal but not hopeless. It's interesting to note the increased emphasis on the True Church as part of patriotism in this zine. Also much news of various people who are fighting back against the IRS and the traffic cops in their localities.

*****

CITIZENS FOR REAGAN UPDATE & ALERT (412 First St. SE #160, Washington, DC 20003): The other side of the Central American activism coin. This is full of the same addresses for senators and so on that the left gives you, but suggests that a different message be sent. The August issue is pretty happy over the contra aid bill. No price, but they'll probably put you on the mailing list if you write and ask. They also have a toll-free Central America Hotline at 800-851-3415, just in case you need news or lobbying suggestions.

*****

THE CLEAN YIELD Vol. 2 #5 ($75/yr from Fried and Fleer Investment Services, PO Box 1880, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842): A stock market newsletter for concerned investors. Before recommending purchase of any stock these guys check it out for South African investments, weapons production, labor and community relations, environmental practices, tobacco, gambling and nuke power involvement. Of course this doesn't guarantee that they don't treat their

employees like shit or that they're really socially conscious companies -- like, The Wherehouse is one of their recommendations this time. The price is normal for this sort of publication, i.e., outrageous.

*****

COLTSFOOT Vol. VII #4 ($1.50 from James Troy, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): This wild-plant journal seems to be developing more interaction with its readers, which I think is a good thing. In addition to the articles on uses of various plants (and occasionally other things -- the Bach Flower Remedies are profiled in this issue) there's now a lively letter column. The elderberry is the only plant to get its own specific article in this issue, but there are plenty of others mentioned in letters and recipes. It must take a lot of patience to gather enough clover flowers to make a cup of clover flour, though!

*****

COMIC BUYERS GUIDE #663 ($1.50 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): A huge weekly tabloid for hte serious comics fan. Besides zillions of ads of new and used stuff for sale, there are stories on the industry, previews of forthcoming comics, price guide updates, reviews of new and old titles, and so on. Huge and impressive but very, very specialized.

*****

COMIX IN A CAPSULE ($2 from Luna Ticks, 424 S. 45 St., Philadelphia, PA 19104): This could be dismissed as just a gimmick or an attempt to cash in on the cyanide capsule scare, but actually it's an interesting project. Four tiny comics are rolled up and inserted into gelatin capsules. With patience you can get them out and read them, and with even more patience you can put them back. You can't get a whole lot in a comic an inch wide and a foot long, but Luna manages to make each one self-contained and even get in a bit of a chuckle, thanks to Mann Shinn's doggerel. The FF gift for the man who has everything.

*****

COOL ART MAGAZINE WEEKLY 7 (Send a stamp to Jeff, PO Box 5060, Kent, OH 44240): Published weekly whenever Jeff is in the mood for it, this is basically a vehicle for his self-expression through prose and art. Not much content in this issue but then again the price is pretty low. Interesting commentary on life vs. art.

*****

COMMUNIST BULLETIN #10 (50p. from Box CBG, Boomtown Books, 167 King St., Aberdeen, UK): I fear that I am not in a position to intelligently review this, because I know nothing about the internal struggles amongst communists in Britain, of which this is clearly a product. Written in the usual communist style, which is to say, full of long words and eternal hairsplitting and condemnations of everyone else. Major articles on state terrorism and the current decline in dictatorships, and ideological discussion of the new External Fraction of the International Communist Current. If you know what all this means, I presume you'll find CB useful -- otherwise, steer clear.

*****

CONFLICT '42 ($1 from Gerard Cosloy, 62 Avenue C #3, New York, NY 10009): Gerard gives you his opinions on the music of today and if you don't like it he'll probably come over and puke on your shoes. He must be at the cutting edge because I haven't heard of most of the groups he says nasty things about. This issue features a long interview with the members of Pussy Galore, whose name is the cleanest thing about them. FF didn't make the 10 Greatest Fanzines Ever list, so I guess I still have heights of blandness to aspire to. Vital but annoying.

*****

CONVERGENT REALITIES Vol. 2 #2 ($2 from Diane Thome, PO Box 1708, New Milford, CT 06776): CR is back after taking a summer vacation, and it seems to be taking a new tack. Diane has grown away from the SCA (she's still interested but apparently not passionately committed) so the medievalist news is mostly missing, along with the calendar of events. Instead, there is more introspective stuff here, much of it written by the editor: thoughts on the space program, on astrology, on karma and disease. There are also tape reviews (mainly filksong-type stuff), fanzine listings, and some poetry.

*****

THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR (Sample $10 from Nova Publishing, PO Box 47081, Atlanta, GA 30362): The $10 is refunded if you end up subscribing at $40/year. This is "A contact magazine for the modern swinger", designed to hook up couples looking for sex with other couples looking for likewise. About 200 ads in zip-code order, listing vital statistics, preferences and other pertinent info. Every subscriber gets to put in an ad and gets free mail-forwarding to other ads.

*****

CRITIQUE #21/22 ($8 from PO Box 11451, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): Allegedly quarterly but publishing fat double issues for the last couple of years, CRITIQUE remains one of my favorites. Focused on conspiracy theories, editor Bob Banner brings to light a variety of theories ranging from the plausible to the preposterous. One of the most thought-provoking articles this time examines the links between Jonestown and the CIA's MK-ULTRA project; one of the more ridiculous is a fictionalized account of the story behind KAL-007. An invaluable source of research leads, as there are always lots of book reviews and excerpts from the small press. The price seems high, but for over 150 typeset pages it's pretty reasonable. A journal for the average FF reader, if there is such an animal.

*****

CULTURAL DEMOCRACY #33 ($15/yr from Alliance for Cultural Democracy, c/o Catherine Jordan, 3232 Harriet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): "Each person and community has a right to a culture or cultures of their choice" and the ACD is trying to network neighborhood artists to provide a voice in directing these pluralistic cultures. This is a special issue reporting on their 1985 conference, and is filled with straightforward writing on a number of topics of concern to local communities: the small farmer, the ex-convict, the union worker and more. Things here seem a bit reified for the average member of our culture, but perhaps I overestimate.

*****

DAILY IMPULSE Vol. 2 #4 ($5/yr from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): A "Bi-Monthly Anti-Authoritarian NewsJournal", DI is into building bridges, particularly with the punk music culture. Articles tend to be on a rather basic level, with references to historical anarchism intermingled with ideas on dealing with one's parents or the Communist Left. Contains a useful listing of organizations and periodicals as well as a local community bulletin board. This issue also reprints the 800 Club flyer, which has been getting a lot of play in the underground press lately.

*****

DAMAGED #6 (SASE from Chris Francz, PO Box 317, Buckhill Falls, PA 18323): "Damaged is now an art fanzine with music related items, not the other way around." Features the sort of art one finds on Black Flag album covers and the sort of writing that makes you seriously question someone's sanity: "Condemn your government before it condemns you" and "I've never seen flesh welcome a blade like I was seeing now". Raw-edged bits of life with the gristle still attached. Looking for artists.

*****

DAMNED PANSIES #2 ($2 from Dave, 1607 W. Bradley, Peoria, IL 61606): A zine dedicated to spreading the gospel of Loonerism, "A percolated

form of Zen" incorporating many art and anti-art movements from the past. This issue contains things to do for Loonerists, poetry that doesn't make a speck of sense, political endorsements and strange and baffling short stories. Submissions are invited but all letters are subject to withering confusion. The Loonerist Manifesto is allegedly available for 9¢.

*****

THE DANDELION Summer 1986 (Donation from MNS, PO Box 1922, Cambridge, MA 02238): This tabloid comes from the Movement for a New Society, a nationwide grassroots activist network. They appear to have a fairly analytical and intellectual approach to things, thinking about their actions as well as carrying them off. This issue is a special report on their separatist Feminism & Nonviolence Gathering, which appears to have been quite successful, and contains an interesting chart with their synthesis of these two traditions.

*****

DART LINE #1 ($1 (?) from Datascore, PO Box 65072, Seattle, WA 98155): Whatever your hobby there's probably a zine for you. This is the "Northwest soft tip dart publication" and is concerned with people who go out to bars, throw darts, and win money and trophys. I don't understand what a "soft tip" dart is, but if you do, and you live in the Northwest, this will tell you where to go to win money with them.

*****

DEADBEAT #3 ($3 from 1338 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): Does this tabloid have a point? A "Special Comix Issue", DEADBEAT 3 eschews plot in favor of grossness and drawing talent, for the most part. The centerpiece here is probably the strip by S. Clay Wilson, but I'm afraid I just found that one -- an ode to obsessive homosexual love -- to be crude and depressing. Aimed, I guess, at the sort of folks who think "art" is anything they can't understand.

*****

DEAD CLOWN 'ZINE #2 (40¢ & SASE from Rudy Felt, PO Box 1166, Brookline, MA 02146): A small pfanzine consisting mainly of photos and poetry. Some of the photoes are of folks like Dee Dee Ramone and Laurie Anderson, but then there are also ones of random punks and the inside of someone's refrigerator. The poetry is, well...here's a sample, in its entirity: "Young Jimmy was dence, He had no sense, He died while licking, An electrical fence." If that appeals to you there's a lot more in the same vein here.

*****

DEAD ON ARRIVAL Vol. II #0 ($1.50 from Jeff Queen, PO Box 825, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0825): Another zine for the gore-movie fanatic. This one, like the rest of them, is mainly filled with reviews of repulsive films which aren't likely to show up at your drive-in, but DOA also offers quite a bit more. Of interest is the interview with Hugh Gallagher, publisher of DRACULINA, who tries to explain that he's not really such a sick puppy after all. Decidedly the underbelly of the gore zines, DOA would be a good place to start if you're looking for entree to the tape-trading circuit.

*****

DEAD PEOPLE #5 (SASE (?) from Jorge, 4 Henry St., Lakewood, NJ 08701): More black-than-white zine with a mainly punk ambience. Jorge promises to print anything he gets sent, so all I can say is that he must have a depressing bunch of correspondents. A poem about suicide, space shuttle jokes, and a disgusting comic are the high points of this issue.

*****

DECENTRALIZE! #2 ($1 from Carol Moore, 630 Cloverdale #106, Los Angeles, CA 90036): This is a newsletter of "Non-Violent Decentralist Strategy". Seeing centralism vs. decentralism as the most important dichotomy in approaching political problems, Carol presents a network of resources cutting across the tax resistance, Green, Libertarian, peace, anarchist, feminist and other movements. As yet lacking a coherent strategy, this is a growing attempt at gaining a consensus on means and ends among diverse groups. An ambitious enterprise, and one which is sure to generate lots of interesting ideas.

*****

DEJA VOODOO TRAIN #7 ($1 from Og Music, Box 182, Station F., Montreal, PQ H3J 2L1 CANADA): A tabloid dedicated almost solely to pushing the fame and fortune of minimalist band Deja Voodoo. They also plug other musicians on the Og label, but then again Og is owned by the same two guys who make up DV. Consists mainly of reprinted reviews of DV shows and records and interviews with band members Gerard Van Herk and Tony Dewald. It sounds like their music might be interesting, and if they ever send us any review vinyl we'll let you know.

*****

DEREGULATOR Vol. 1 #2 ($8/yr from Rick Henderson, PO Box 17475, Raleigh, NC 27619): This tabloid is sort of a cross between THE FREEMAN and SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER in its effort to get the libertarian point of view across (indeed, some of the articles are reprinted from THE FREEMAN). Philosophical essays are interspersed with news tidbits that show overgovernment in a poor light. Arguments in this issue include those against raising the drinking age, agaist subsidizing Amtrak, and against required drug testing. Well laid out and easy to read, this one could serve as a good first outreach publication for many.

*****

DIALOGUE #63 (75¢ from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe St., New Orleans, LA 70130): Sort of a special issue of "New Orleans Alternative Monthly Newsjournal", as the bulk of it is devoted to listing and reviewing the pubs they trade for, including many you won't find here, particularly in the peace, nonviolence and N.O. local areas. There are also some interesting thoughts on the politics of food and deep ecology vs. environmentalism in this issue.

*****

THE DISHWASHERS QUARTERLY ($1 from Scott Bennett, 108 Lincoln Pl. #4, Brooklyn, NY 11217): Scott has relocated to the Big Apple and can't find any dishwashing gigs (the market is sewed up by the recent immigrants, he says), but this doesn't keep him from publishing more strange little story fragments. Just a page or two each, these disjointed little sketches are either an inquiry into the human condition or a way to let a little pressure off an overloaded brain. Grim fare for the early morning.

*****

DOLPHIN-MOON PRESS

Herewith a few of the items available from the nice folks at D-M (PO Box 22262, Baltimore, MD 21203):

*DOLPHIN-MOON NEWSLETTER #2 (SASE, I guess) will fill you in on what the folks at this press have been up to. It's a good way to get an overview of the breadth of their commitment to poetry, comics, and other literary stuff.

*ISOLATION #2 ($2) is subtitled "Water Parable" and features words by D-M editor and drawings by resident artist Nick Aumiller. It's sort of a comix chapbook, with a strange storyline about an afterlife that is damp up to the gunwales.

*STICK DETERMINATION ($2 & state over 18) is a comics jam (that is, a batch of different artists contribute stuff to the same strip) centered around a trip to a most unusual circus, with animal tamers and sword swallowers, sexual acrobats and a snake lady. There are a couple of other pieces, best of

which is Ted Bolman's "The Monk", a soap-operatic story of lust and downfall.

*****

DONNE LA MORT (Available for trade from Richard Bruno, 7 R. du Bourg - L'Abbe, 75003 Paris, FRANCE): Very dense pen-and-ink drawings of sexually explicit subjects, overlaid with hard to read words in French (which I didn't go through the hassle of finding and translating). This probably qualifies as either mail art or trash, depending on your point of view. Richard asks for "graphic stuff" in return.

*****

DOWNTOWN #19 (151 First Ave., New York, NY 10003): No price on the cover, so this one is probably free in the East Village and unobtainable elsewhere -- write 'em if you're interested. A tabloid of the arts, as in sculpture, painting, theatre, film and even a bit of music. Popping up in these pages is also Ernest Mann, who many FF readers will recognize as the moving spirit behind LITTLE FREE PRESS. As with most legitimate avant-garde art, much of the content here strikes me as pretentious and silly, but there seems to be a market for it.

*****

DRAFT NOTices August-October 1986 ($5/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): COMD is the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, and they're quite active in the SD area, where a court case is going on over the right of access of anti-military groups to career days and the like. This issue contains the latest on the Selective Slavery front, as well as some quotes from JROTC training documents that don't sound all that rational. COMD also has pamphlets, buttons, postcards and the like available for the anti-draft activist.

*****

DREAMSHORE #29 ($1 from 618 S. Mitchell St., Bloomington, IN 47401): A collection of varied writings from folks who are trying not to lose sight of the joys of childhood, DS has moved onto an irregular schedule -- nothing guaranteed, but still fairly frequent. I found the best piece in this issue to be Melanthe's retrospective analysis of various religious visionaries discussed in past issue. There's also some fascinating stuff on Nazi UFO groups from the mid-30s.

*****

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. VI #6 ($1 from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): The centerpiece of this issue is Peter Dickinson's Guest of Honor speech from the Boston Mystery Festival. If you're thinking of subscribing to a mystery fanzine, I urge you to order this issue and see what he had to say (I won't give it away except to mention it's a good analysis of the business of reading mysteries). Along with this come the more usual reviews of new books that are the heart of DROOD, and a list of the nominees for this year's Shamus Award.

*****

DUMB (50¢ from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): This is a small-scale literary zine that seems tohave been heavily influenced by LOBSTER TENDENCIES -- which is to say, "literary" is entirely too highfalutin' a word for what goes on here. This issue is all full of folks from Ohio writing about their own lives and hard times and perhaps fantasies (the edge between reality and fantasy is pretty blurred here) and having a good time about it. If you liked LT or CLOSEST PENGUINS give this a try.

*****

THE DUPLEX PLANET #77 ($1.25 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga SPrings, NY 12866): A zine for quiet times when you want to reflect on the world. David goes out and talks to senior citizens in various places, asking them annoying questions like "How do you protect little trees?" and "Did you ever go camping?" and recording the answers, including the ones where they call him names (actually those are pretty rare). This opens up windows on to a lot of worlds that one seldom sees. Also features the poetry of Ernest Noyes Brookings.

*****

EARTHSONG Spring 1986 ($1 (?) from Silver Web, PO Box 5628, Baltimore, MD 21210): This is a tabloid for pagans and other "Nature Religions" people. This issue contains a couple of interesting articles, notably a talk with Otter G'Zell (founder of the Church of All Worlds), who is still involved with a lot of oddball stuff. Regular features include an active letter column, a couple of pages of poetry, and a section on bringing up children within a pagan tradition. Contains a fair amount of networking, a few classifieds, and a hope for land and a sanctuary in the future.

*****

ECOMEDIA-TORONTO BULLETIN #12 ($10/yr from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9, CANADA): Ecomedia is a loosely affiliated network of activist and anti-authoritarian groups who operate as sort of a small-scale alternative to UPI and AP. I don't know how often their stories get picked up by other parts of the media, but the BULLETIN makes for fascinating reading, full of things you won't see in the Albany TIMES-UNION. This issue: coverage of the Native American boycott of the Calgary Olympics, Smash McDonalds Day, LD50 testing at Gillette, and Project Censored.

*****

EDITIONS CATALOGUE 731 ($1 from Norman Levine's Editions, Boiceville, NY 12412): These are the people I buy used books from whenever I can afford it. The catalogues come out twice a month or so, and each lists about 8,000 books for sale. Prices for the most part are in the $7-$15 range, though some books are as low as $3.50 and special items may go up to $300 or so.

*****

EMANCIPATION #68 ($5/yr from Anarchist Association of the Americas, PO Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Stn., Washington, DC 20044): #67 was a gala post-Haymarket strategy issue. It must have taxed the resources of the collective, as this is a skinny little thing focused on one issue, which is, however, rather important: the growing encroachments on the world's rain forests. The problems is simply outlined, the chief players are noted, and then a few suggestions are made for action (chief among them being the reduction of one's own personal demands for products that are causing this destruction).

*****

END TIMES #9 (99¢ from 1085 14th St. #1234, Boulder, CO 80302): ET is not your standard-issue pfanzine even if they do review a hell of a lot of records by the likes of the Micronotz and Nick Cave and Big Black. For one thing, this issue features a long interview with Allen Ginsberg, marred only by snide editorial comments inserted after the fact. Other interviews with Angst and local performance artists-cum-poets Bob McDonald and Cecilie Miller. There are also some strange editorial-type musings including one from Bunge Stick who concludes that basically, people are dirt. Worth getting just for the Ginsberg interview, but read the rest to widen your horizons.

*****

EPIA SOCIETY 1986 FALL CATALOG ($2 Cash/MO from PO Box 6163, San Bernardino, CA 92412): The catalog has grown to 32 pages, large enough to be published separately from the Society's bimonthly Digest of Constitutionalist Articles. It lists hundreds of "Media Research Reports", articles reprinted from hither and thither in the Patriot press. Some sample titles: "The Conspiracy Against America", "Are Federal Notes Income?", "A Closer Look at the Birth Certificate" and "Understanding the Privacy Act". Much of this is legal information that should be taken with a grain of salt, or at least in consultation with an attorney. $2 will get you a sample copy of the DIGEST.

*****

FACE THE MUSIC Vol. 2 #4 ($1 from PO Box 163142, Sacramento, CA 95816): This is another one for you catalog-lovers, which I endorse wholeheartedly. Though I don't spend a lot of money on used records, when I do, it's with these people. For one thing, you can trust their quality ratings to be accurate, and for another, their selection of oddball stuff is pretty incredible. My tastes run towards Tonio K., and the Bonzo Dog Band, but whatever your tastes, they've got something. Also stock new records, posters, videotapes, and who knows what else. Typical used LPs are around $6-$10. New feature this issue: a batch of underground comix and the like for sale.

*****

FALLOUT #5 ($2 c/o PO Box 1539, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A tabloid produced by graphic artists and disgruntled people including Winston Smith, Javed Scotti, and Jello Biafra. Dating from 1985 (but still available) this is an outspoken attack on the Evil Amerikan Empire as run by Ron Raygun and his Nazi Pigs. If that sort of worldview appeals to you, then the graphics here will knock your socks off. Even if you don't think we have 1984 in 1986 you might want to look into this one: the collections of ads and photos from the 50's to the present do tell a lot about the American dream, and some of the editorial analysis (like that of the Union Carbide ads) is quite penetrating.

*****

FALSE POSITIVE #6 ($3 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 432, Boston, MA 02258): The SEX issue of this posterist collection. The cover is one of Donna's own color collages, featuring some rather strange bestiality. With such a popular topic, the entire issue is rather, well, spurting, and the usual leavening of disconnected Kooks is pretty much absent. Collage, written description and obscene drawings rub shoulders with one another in a desperate attempt to get off. I've saved to best for last -- each issue includes, as a separate pamphlet, the first printing of the full version of Rev. Dragwyla's testicle-busting BRAG OF THE FEMALE SUBGENIUS. See what the male heirarchy of the Muthah Church has been missing!

*****

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER Vol. 37 #2 (On request from 134 Franklin Corner Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648): This is a thoroughly ecumenical publication seeking to "promote the practice of prayer". A collection of short texts from ordinary people and scripture, from commentaries and news stories. If something rubs you the wrong way you can turn the page and find a different inspirational thought. Faiths represented include a couple of different Buddhisms, Islam, various shade of Christianity, Taoism, and more. Available free but like most free magazines they appreciate donations.

*****

FENICI 1 (? from Joan Rom i Francesco Vidal, Apartat Correus 430, Reus, SPAIN): This appears to be a tabloid of the contemporary arts of one sort or another. It is, however, entirely in Spanish (which I do not read) and none of the names sound familiar. So much for this review. Large pages, nice printing, and a scattering of photos.

*****

FISHIE TALES #2 ($1 (?) from Tina Vampyress, 163 Randolph St., Carteret, NJ 07008): Just what one wouldn't expect in a pfanzine from Jersey: a surfer column. Put me down as one of the folks who didn't realize there was a surf scene on the east coast. Also lots of material on The Burnt and Scratch Acid, and an overriding "Punk and Proud" consciousness here. Cover price 50¢, but it cost 73¢ to mail my copy, so be generous.

*****

FLIPSIDE 50 ($1.50 from PO Box 363, WHittier, CA 90608): Nothing spectacular for their fiftieth issue, just the usual 70 pages of punk rock and

associated topics. Though no one can cover everything, FLIPSIDE is as close to a newspaper of record as the field has. Some of the things covered this month include the Instigators, Mad Parade, live punk in Poland, A.S.F., and Husker Du. There's alsoa ton of reviews, lots of ads (zillions from people seeking correspondents) and the usual feisty letters column.

*****

FLYING HORSE ($5/3 issues from 504 W. 24th St. #137, Austin, TX 78705): Mail-art zine from one of the hottest music scenes in Texas, and I think the folks who do this have some connections with the music world, although it's hard to be sure. The usual collages and drawings, plus a couple of poems, and someone sneaks an interview with The Ideals into the last few pages. I have no idea what their submissions policy is, or whether they'll be publishing a year from now, but mail artists like to take chances, right? Mostly socially-conscious stuff, poems about nuclear winter, graphics depicting the Dept. of Education sucking out someone's brain, that sort of thing.

*****

FOOTHILL BLVD. ($2.25 from M. J. Stevens, PO Box 2071, West Covina, CA 91793): Foothill Boulevard is the main drag that runs through the San Gabriel Valley, where I used to hang out. Some people know it better as part of Route 66. Anyhow, this mag is an effort to identify a bunch of the artists active in this confined, horrible area, who do not enjoy the notoriety and atmosphere of those in, say, the Bay Area. It's an interesting idea -- perhaps the publishers can go on the road and do, say, "The Artists of Eastern Iowa". Anyhow, they have a mixed interview and article format, with a batch of photos that didn't print all that well, but at least allow you to see some of the art they're talking about. Poets, painters, bands, and the guy who used to run a club are all included.

*****

FOOTPRINTS (50¢ from PO Box 45057, Boise, ID 83711-5057): A small conservative monthly newsletter. This issue has a reprint from the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade newsletter about the communist plans to take over the world and an interview with a pastor who recently visited South Africa at the invitation of the SA government and toured the country. Not coincidentally, he feels that sanctions and the general media outcry against South Africa are part of another Soviet plot.

*****

FORWARD Spring/Summer 1986 ($2 from Christian Research Institute, PO Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0500): CRI attempts to highlight the doctrinal errors in other religions so as to make their own mainstream Christianity look good. Oddly enough, though, for the most part they do this by showing how, for example, the tenets of Sufism conflict with the teachings of the New Testament. The only articles that border on the nasty are those dealing with heresies closer to home, as with the one in this issue attacking the Jehovah's Witnesses. Although they come from an explicitly biased point of view, their evaluations tend to be fair and interesting.

*****

FOR YOUR SKULL #13 (50¢ & a stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A very visual pfanzine with lots more pictures than words. Hiding in the back is an interview with Cold September's Joe Barrett, but first you get a cat interview, various single panel drawings, CE Emmer on the Meaning of Life, and a drawing of nasty things to do to your neighbor. The whole thing is neatly wrapped up by one of Sarah Folkman's disturbing cartoon vignettes.

*****

FOURTH WORLD #3 (On request from Dr. Bugg, 819 Peacock Plaza #609, Key West, FL 33040): This journal of "social nihilism" has relocated to the Florida Keys but this hasn't done anything to turn Bugg's mind to more mundane things. The chief article in this issue discusses some of the early documents of Gardnerian Wicca, which Bugg has handled and examined, in contrast to some other writers on the subject (the Ripley "Believe It Or Not" people own some of the original sources, and might consider selling them for enough moolah). There's also an article on camouflage and excerpts from readers' letters. A shorter than usual issue, but made up for by the inclusion of Spider Rainbow's book (see BOOKS in the next FF).

*****

THE FREEMAN Vol. 36 #10 (On request from FEE, 30 South Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): Though the subtitle is "Ideas on Liberty", for the Foundation for Economic Education it might as well be "Ideas on the Free Market". This issue has a special series devoted to the evils of protectionism, but of more interest is Robert James Bidinotto's essay "Paying People Not to Grow" which is perhaps the epitome of the FREEMAN style of writing. In it, he condemns every government program from AFDC to the National Endowment for the Arts to farm price supports as an impediment to the free market, without addressing at all the question of how to deal with the enormous social dislocations that would be created by an abrupt end to these programs. The FEE is very good at cheerleading and at identifying problems, but they fail to go the distance in proposing solutions.

*****

FREE OUR PUBLIC LANDS (Free from Lynn Jacobs, PO Box 2203, Cottonwood, AZ 86326): An example of one person trying to make a difference, this 48-page tabloid is devoted solely to one topic: the use of public lands in the Western states to graze range cattle. Although a vast area is devoted to this purpose (anyone who has wandered around west of the Rockies can recall endless barbed-wire fences and close-cropped vegetation) it benefits only 30,000 "welfare ranchers" and produces a miniscule part of the nation's beef. Filled with photos, this tabloid tells the story in all its ramifications, from the obvious ecological disaster to the more subtle changes wrought on the land by "range management" practices. Includes suggestions for actions to take. A sobering paper.

*****

FREE VERMONT Vol. 5 #3 ($10/yr from PO Box 37, Burlington, VT 05402): Published by the Libertarian Party of Vermont, FV is a throughly mainstream Libertarian tabloid. They benefit immensely from concentrating on current issues rather than Lib theory, though, and as a result are more readable than most of the genre. This issue addresses the "War on Drugs", the US terrorism directed against Khadafi, and the aid to the Nicaraguan Contras (with the thesis that this aid actually strengthens the Sandanista government). There is also some local politicing, but it's relatively unobtrusive.

*****

FUDGONG FUNNIES #6 (50¢ from J.P. Morgan, PO Box 78, Keansburg, NJ 07734): In a stunning change, this issue is not entirely drawn by J.P. himself, but instead features guest art from the likes of Brad Foster and a couple of ads. Fortunately, that doesn't make this minicomic any less funny, as the ads are for strange things like TWISTED IMAGE and the art is still suitably bizarre. I still like J.P.'s own panels the best, particularly "Rambo Vs. Godzilla" and "Ayn Rand Ice Cream".

*****

FUTURE Vol. 2 #12 ($1.75 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): I never know quite what to expect when I open up a new issue of FUTURE. That's because Serena Dossenko and her staff are interested in all sorts

of things, both "New Age" and more down-to-earth. My pick hit from this issue is the article on the State of the Ocean (not bad but not great), but there are also articles on recycling, financial planning, modern music, and the growing opposition to a renewal of the Price-Anderson act. And to top everything else, the FUTURE folks will sell you organically-grown elephant garlic through the mail for $5.75/lb postpaid.

*****

GALACTIC CROSSROADS #2 ($2 from Niles Hokkanen, PO Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301): So, you want to talk about specialized markets? Well, this one is for mandolin players, I kid you not. Full of technical detail, parts of this are not accessible to the layman or (probably) the beginner, but anyone can read and enjoy the record reviews and interviews. Important in folk and bluegrass, the mandolin (or its relatives: the cittern gets a column in this issue) turns up all over the place, and the music here represents this eclecticism. Were I a mandolin player, I'm sure I'd be fascinated, and if I were interested in bluegrass or folk, this would be likewise essential. For zinesters, this tabloid is another indication of how alive the alternative press is these days.

*****

GAZE August 8, 1986 ($1 from PO Box 152, Minneapolis, MN 55440): "The News Bi-Weekly for the Twin Cities Gay/Lesbian Community", this is 32 pages for the most part with more stories than ads and pictures. The Politics of AIDS is one hot topic here, but there are also stories on the preparations for Gay Games II, the International Gay/Lesbian Archives, and a whole bunch of short news bits.

*****

THE GERM #1 ($1 (?) from GESSCO, CAB 305, TESC, Olympia, WA 98505): This is the "GESSCO fanzine"; I can find no hint of what those initials stand for, but from the address and contents they have something to do with the Evergreen State College. This is intended to develop into a forum for opinions that concern downtown Olympia. Judging by the calendar, they have quite an active grassroots community organization, but as an introduction to their activities this is pretty marginal. The best article is the centerfold on the need for outdoors gathering spaces and the subtle ways in which architecture affects the interactions of the people using it.

*****

GLITCH NEWS Vol. II #9 (44¢ from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): The primary function of this zine is to act as a publicity organ for Glitch's releases including the upcoming GLITCH SAMPLER VOL. II, featuring such bands as Alamo Choir, Texas Instruments, and Black Spring. If they'd send us some promos I could tell you what these groups sound like. GN also provides networking for the Austin music scene, with listings of recording studios, music store ads, and in this issue a list of zines from all over. [Late addition: the GLITCH SAMPLER has arrived and will be reviewed in FF21].

*****

GL VOICE #146 ($15/yr from 1517 LaSalle #E, Minneapolis, MN 55403): "News and opinion for gays, lesbians and civilized others" makes a nice header for this tabloid. Certainly there is nothing objectionable here unless you get all upset over the very thought of homosexuality. A full page interview with Nan Hunter, new ACLU staff counsel for the Lesbian/Gay Rights Project is followed by plenty of brief news stories, ranging from international to local and a selection of reviews, local events, and advertisements of interest to the gay community.

*****

GOLDEN GATE #1 ($1 (?) from PO Box 6437, San Francisco, CA 94101): This is a new tabloid put out by the U.S. Mission, a controversial shelter for the homeless in the Bay Area. They're controversial because they require their residents to pay for food and shelter, if necessary by soliciting donations in the suburbs. On the other hand, they provide a much less hectic existence than eating in soup kitchens and sleeping on the streets. Anyhow, this is intended to focus on the problems of various down-and-outers in the region. This first issue includes a listing of fifteen or so AIDS organizations in SF, a rundown on the basic policy of U.S. Mission, and a report on Gay Games II.

*****

GRAFICOMIX: COMPUTER DADA (50¢ & a stamp from Fatalistic Funnies, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304): A new application of some sort of computer (probably a MacIntosh or something similar) to the automated production of Dada. This is a minicomic consisting of completely random panels, each featuring a mishmash of images and captioned with some short, pithy, senseless saying. Technically interesting but forgettable.

*****

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 2 #10 ($2 & SASE from Phyllis Burns, 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): A monthly newsletter for and about people with a variety of handicaps which our society is helping to overcome. Some of the articles are of wide interest, for example the suggestions on how to save money on long-term prescription drugs. Others are narrower, like the news on connections between diet and severity of arthritis. And some are written by those with handicaps, such as William Staudenmeyer's account of how he manages a golf game despite a below-the-elbow amputation. Also features poetry and classifieds.

*****

HARVEST Vol. 7 #1 ($10/yr from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): Harvest is one of the more consistent Pagan zines; they come out like clockwork whenever there is a solstice, equinox, or sabbat. (If you don't understand that, it means 8 times a year). Each issue has some pages applicable to the particular season, as befits a zine tied to Nature's rhythms; there are also special articles as the Goddess moves people. In this issue, Darcie writes about funeral planning, Roger talks of ritual planning, and Imara pens some herb notes, along with much other news and networking. Good for keeping track of the pagan press and east coast festivals.

*****

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR Oct.-Nov. 1986 ($6/yr from PO Box 3181, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): Hold the presses, there's a relatively serious article on page one, with editor Johnny Hazard presenting "A Layperson's Guid to Drug Hysteria". After this is over, though, HSM degenerates into the usual satirical silliness, with a presentation of the Best of Minneapolis (witht he best Work of Art being found inside a phone booth) and a selection of letters from Johnny's psychotic readers.

*****

HIDE OR SEEK 'ZINE #2 ($1 from Jennifer Hennessey, 1363 Deeridge Ln., Coquitlam, BC V3E 1Y7, CANADA): Attractive little pfanzine that is providing a forum for those interested in "positive punk" (and even a few people who think the whole idea sucks). The positive punk people take the basic idea of original punk -- "the world is all screwed up" and try to go one step further by finding ways to change it, mainly by working within the youth subculture. The most interesting part of this zine is the various letters from punks, but there are also bits and pieces of artwork, lyrics and poetry.

*****

HIGH STREET ART #5 (50¢ from Testube Publishing, PO Box 8421, Columbus, OH 43201): This is an attempt to network the "Short North" art district in Columbus, and apparently it isn't going all that

well. This issue has a long lead-in article on the Lower Manhattan Art Scene, along with suggestions for saving it. Later on there are some music reviews. The stuff on the Short North is sort of crammed in between, with the map of the area and listing of events being perhaps the most useful. Tracy seems to be learning once again the rough lessons about a fanzine needing an audience before it can find one.

*****

HIMALAYAN NEWS Sept./Oct. 1986 (On request from RR 1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): The outreach tabloid of Swami Rama's Himalayan Institute, this one contains course listings, ads and some basic eastern thought. The contents vary from pure advertising to pure philosophizing; although the former tends to overpower the latter, there are often gems to be found, and it's worth getting on the list as long as you don't mind the associated pleas to buy something. In this issue the good Swami discusses "The Seven Systems of Indian Philosophy."

*****

HI-TECH TERROR 15 ($6/12 issues from Tim Ferrante, PO Box 41, Keyport, NJ 07735): The VCR revolution has been a great boon to some hobbies and watching gory movies is definitely one of them. HTT features half a dozen hard-core crud fans reviewing some of the items to have hit the video rental stores recently. Typical titles: Jungle Holocaust, Hospital Massacre, and Mistress of the Apes. Besides reviews, there is a bit of news here, including listings of which things are being released under two different titles (e.g., Return of the Zombis and Beyond the Dead are the same movie) to save the videomaniac a few bucks.

*****

HOLISTIC ANIMAL NEWS Vol. 2 #3 ($2 from PO Box 9384, Seattle, WA 98109): This is aimed at those of us with pets who want to care for them by the same natural, non-invasive methods many New Agers advocate for human well-being. Since this is the Summer issue, it's appropriate that much of it be devoted to battling that nemesis of the small animal, the flea. The suggestions here go well beyond garlic and vitamin B. (I must confess, though, that this writer's pets still depend on flea collars). Also features book reviews, profiles of their advertisers, and other networking.

*****

HOME WORK DIGEST Vol. 2 #8/9 ($1 (?) from Ethel Jackson Price, PO Box 44268, Tucson, AZ 85733): Bills itself as "THe Leader in Networking Newsletters for all Home Based Businesses and Cottage Industries", but there isn't a whole lot of meat in this double issue. The best part is probably a listing of other newsletters for home-based businesses. Also features a few cheerleading articles (do small businesses really want to stay small or is it just sour grapes?) and a selection of business cards from subscribers.

*****

THE HONEYWELL PROJECT CIRCULATOR Vol. 4 #6 ($6/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): These people are for "economic conversion", that is, the retooling of military contractors to produce socially-useful goods. They're concentrating on Honeywell since it's in their locale, and acting mostly via civil disobedience and community agitation. As a result, the first half or so of thi mag is taken up by reports on various trials of members of the Honeywell Project for one thing and another. I'm not sure they've accomplished anything more than consciousness-raising and making themselves feel good; certainly Honeywell is still a military contractor.

*****

HOT FLASHES 7 ($1.25 from Bob Trammell, 5459 Miller Ave., Dallas, TX 75206): I've only seen two issues of this "Art/News & Opinions" journal and I'm not yet sure what to make of it. That may be the inevitable fate of any magazine featuring work by Blaster Al Ackerman, though Gerald Burns does make an attempt to explain the Blaster in his parable of a story "The Chinese Boxes of Benny Pilcher". This issue also features some musings about the current state of poetry in America (not bad) and a column on the struggle by a few people to get the Dallas City Council to take a stand against apartheid.

*****

HUMAN EXPRESSIONS Vol. 1 #1 ($15/yr from M.E. Wirk, 1742 - 22nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122): Meg Wirk used to publish a zine called THE WIRKSHOP, but gradually it turned into a non-stop chat between various folks, with the letter column overwhelming everything else. This time she's going to just devote the journal to letter-writing, with the idea of sharing all the neat stuff friends send each other through the mail: recipes, anecdotes, advice, jokes, poems and whatever else. Sort of a follow-up journal for folks who appreciate THE LETTER EXCHANGE. This first issue is short but sweet, with various bits of absurd news and encouragement for readers to contribute letters towards the next one.

*****

HYPER MAX 86 (SASE (?) from Jay Hall, 619 W. Boyd, Norman, OK 73069): This appears to be a Christian pfanzine, although it is notably devoid of any explanation. The same ultra-cluttered and randomly-oriented layout one gets in many low-budget punk zines, yet in this case the elements for the collage are excerpts from some pop Gospel or other and lyric snatches that refer to God or Jesus or religious issues in some way.

*****

I CAN'T EXPLAIN #2 (50¢ from Darius Smith, 23 W. Spring St., Oxford, OH 45056): Another sort-of-literary zine from people who don't get along with pretentious college English department type writing. There's almost enough of these to deserve a boxed section in the next FF. Anyhow, there are bits of story fragments and short poetry here, along with some zine reviews that seem to have snuck in somewhere along the line. There are some disturbing thoughts on growing up abused from Robin X. in the centerfold, and some of the poetry is a bit more than the usual depressed punk stuff. Suffers a bit from poor printing and latent psychoses.

*****

THE IDEALOG Vol. 1 #2 ($10/6 issues from Lee Glickstein, 116 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110): This is "the Journal of the Brain Exchange", but I fear that needs a little explaining. BE is a group which meets weekly or so to brainstorm about various problems in the group or in the world and to do a bit of networking. From the descriptions here it's a rather formal process, complete with optional business cards and literature to swap, but it sounds like they generate a lot of energy and have a good time. Through IDEALOG they're trying to help others set up similar gatherings around the country, recounting what works about their meetings, and giving examples of the sort of crazy, self-fulfilling things people in the Bay Area are up to.

*****

IDIOSYNCRACIES #2 (SASE from Joel Patenaude, 220 Lake St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): 4 pages of words and doodlings including the second part of "The Continuing Saga of Greg Porter", a hero who seems to be going the teeniest bit round the bend as the story progresses. Also features a critical screed against "Happy Days". "Sometimes I act on impulse; the damage can be extensive and the regret -- searing."

*****

INK DISEASE #11 ($1 from 4563 Marmion Way, Los Angeles, CA 90065): This is sort of the "Part II" issue, with the conclusion of the FLIPSIDE and Ian

MacKaye interviews. Coupled with part I, these are both incredible fun, but #10 is sold out. Oh well, you can still get in on the tail end. Also a major interview with the original Weirdos, tons of record reviews, and a couple of music video reviews (of the FLIPSIDE line). Nifty photos and clean layout, though the printing is a bit marginal in my copy. ID goes into things in a lot more depth than most pfanzines, and they do it well.

*****

INSIDE JOKE #49 ($1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): It looks like IJ is going to make it to the gala 50th issue (quite an accomplishment in the fanzine world) but not, alas, in time for review in this FF. That's OK, though, because there's plenty of nifty stuff in #49 of the "Newsletter of Comedy and Creativity". Along with the always-wonderful columns from Ho Chi Zen and Anni Ackner, this issue features Deborah Benedict giving a lengthy analysis of the chemicals in McDonalds food and Larry Oberc's lesson on writing bad poetry, plus a lot of stories and what-not from the IJ community of lovable nuts. Sometimes self-indulgent, always full of media references that go by me, IJ is still full of laughs.

*****

INSTAURATION Vol. 11 #10 ($3.75 from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): INSTAURATION is published by people who feel that the Nordic Majority made America great and that the unassimilable minorities are now destroying the country. Although most will find this magazine distasteful, as far as I can tell the writers are sincere and thoughtful rather than the Nazi hate-mongers they are usually accused of being. This issue contains an interesting thumbnail sketch of their basic positions, some acerbic humor, and a lot of bits and pieces tending to support their general ideas. The letters column is freewheeling, though I don't know whether they would publish outright attacks on the magazine (and why should they?).

*****

INSTEAD OF A MAGAZINE #40 ($1.50 from PO Box 433, Willimantic, CT 06226): This quarterly is still going strong on a variety of topics not often mentioned in the anarchist press. IOAM is a friendly place and it draws comments from a lot of readers, so in some sense the Spooner Collective, which puts it out, is spread all over the country. Topics this issue include the continuing search for an anarchist ethic, Lysander Spooner hisself writing to Grover Cleveland, food, drugs, the continuing fallout over Haymarket '86, and much more. The articles cover the entire spectrum from eminently practical to completely theoretical. IOAM is also a good central point for information on anarchists in Northern Ireland, as well as being active in prisoner support.

*****

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS (On Request from Gary North, PO Box 8000, Tyler, TX 75711): Gary publishes a number of one or two-page newsletters from this address. If you get on his mailing list he'll send you a selection every month, along with plugs for his various books. Titles included: REMNANT REVIEW, a free-market economic analysis zine that tends to take an almost conspiratorial view of the modern world: BIBLICAL ECONOMICS TODAY, which worries about such things as the immorality of fiat money; and DOMINION STRATEGIES, which attempts to reconcile Biblical teachings on money and business with current practices.

*****

INTERNATIONALIST PERSPECTIVE #3 ($1.50 from PO Box 1748, Montclair, NJ 07042): Published by the External Fraction of the International Communist Current, this is another of the hyper-theoretical revolutionary periodicals one finds among those who consider themselves the vanguard of the poor confused proletariat. If you want to read about the hairsplitting differences between about six other groups in the same position, as well as revolutionary communist critiques of modern life (did you know the ecologists are acting only out of despair?) buy this. If not, I don't blame you.

*****

IT'S ONLY A MOVIE #10 (Sample $1.25 from Pam Smith, 54 W. Randolph, Rm 606E2, Chicago, IL 60601): This one is for folks interested in what Michael Weldon dubbed "psychotronic" films: the low-budget sleaze and gore that so many know and love. As they never have any back issues available, I won't describe this one, other than to say that they're getting more professional and interesting by the month. Regular columnists include Del Close, John Ostrander, and Howard Johnson. A variety of the pros in the business write for IOAM, and the Psychotronic Society also puts out videos, sponsors movie screenings, and engages in other fun activities for the strange movie fan.

*****

IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER #4 (SASE from Bill Shields, c/o Sprinter Printing, 5250 W. 74th St., Edina, MN 55435): A small literary thing featuring a few familiar names, with a notable opening story from Jake Berry (about them damned alcoholic thrillseeking Uranians). Apart from this opening barrage it's all poetry, with the best of the lot being Vicki Harriss Shields' "To a Male Supremist". The editor says he's open to "submissions and emissions".

*****

JAG Vol. 24 #9 (On request from R.S. Jaggard, MD, 10 E. CHarles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Dr. Jaggard produces a mostly-monthly series of broadsides "dedicated to the preservation of individual moral responsibility and to establishment and implementation of a Free Enterprise System." He's been at this for years despite setbacks including being defrauded and robbed by the IRS. Not surprisingly, things like the IRS and the SOcial Security system come in for most of his ire, with medical (mis)practices being another popular topic. One page of well-reasoned prose can make one think, and it's somewhat inspiring to see an individual struggle in the face of such massive opposition at a dreadful personal cost.

*****

JAVA #5 ($1 from Ann Wood, PO Box 7461, Columbia, MO 65201): "A mutable yet affordable outlet for unique expressions of quality art", this one has a nice selection of prose, poetry and drawings. I laughed my head off at John Hauser's "The Puppy Saga", the final story of what happened to Dick and Jane when they grew up and learned a few more words than "see Spot run". On the other hand, the editors were taken in by Dwight Thieme, who slips in a story by David Moser that originally ran in, of all places, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN (Jan. '82) as his own work. Well, nobody's perfect. It fit right in with the bizarreness here even if it wasn't by the alleged author. Charles Sperry's cover cartoon, "Salvation of the Bourgeoisie", is also great.

*****

JDM BIBLIOPHILE 38 ($5/yr from Department of English, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620): This attractive and well-written literary zine is dedicated primarily to the works of John D. MacDonald, though the writers do stray into other areas of mystery and suspense. It contains both writings from JDM (reprinted from various sources) and those about him, including both reviews and appreciations. Originally founded as a vehicle to spread information among collectors, it has apparently grown into a group of friends united by sharing an interest in the same books. This issue

also contains panels from a proposed Travis McGee comic strip and some JDM pastiches.

*****

JEANNE'S TREASURES (41 W. Center, Mt. Gilead, OH 43338): This is the best source of the "Big Mails" that I know of. Big Mails are those sheets that contain lots of little ads and money-making deals. Just flipping through this issue I find the expected printing and mailing services, recipe exchanges, multi-level marketing, How to Win the Lottery, headlight reminders and lots more. Send a buck and you'll get all the get-rich-quick schemes you can shake a stick at.

*****

JEREMIAH Vol. 1 #10 ($2.50 from EMCE, PO Box T, Crugers, NY 10521): With the subtitle "I'm Mad As Hell", this is the monthly rantings of a pseudonymous freethinker who tends to find himself quite upset at the way the world is and is well enough off tohave his ravings published. In this issue he examines the historical course of both revolution and democracy, and appears to decide that mass movements are doomed to repeat all the mistakes of the past forevermore, amen. The best alternative he can suggest is to retain one's individual choice, and little comfort though this may be, at least it's not unrealistic.

*****

JERRYCO CATALOG #29 (50¢ from 601 Linden Pl., Evanston, IL 60202): I'm a catalog freak, but only for the real oddball stuff -- no custom-made shoes or imported cheeses for me. Jerryco sells surplus at prices that range from reasonable to fantastic. A few samples from the current catalog: a 2" refractor telescope for $57.50; a 24 VDC alarm horn for $9.50; Telephone keypads for $1.50 (ten for $12.50); 35" long dummy artillery shells made from hardwood for $45; and 4 14" springs for $2. Well-stocked with all sorts of electrical, mechanical and optical bits and pieces, plus educational and occasionally military items. The catalogs are fun to read even if you don't buy anything, but you ought to send them a few bucks to defray costs if that's your intent.

*****

JERSEY BEAT #27 ($1 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): I think this must have been the "clean out the reviews file" issue of JB. Page after page of reviews of obscure bands from all over, but chiefly located in Jim's own neck of the woods. There's a particularly good listing of the "Shore Core" bands located in Jersey itself, proving that more than toxic sludge comes from the state where I was born. Also pages devoted to Metal, new demos, and just plain what-not.

*****

JET LAG #69 ($1 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147): Apparently not content with covering nearly every genre of American music, JL is now branching out to the overseas arena. In this issue ex-editor John the Mailman discusses his trip to east of the Iron Curtain to meet strange new bands and pass on contraband American culture, Pat Thomas gives us the rundown on the Danish underground music scene, and there's an ad for a Swedish hardcore show in St. Louis. American groups featured this time include Soul Asylum and the Monkees. The FF review copy also included a pressing ot A Picture Made's debut single, "God Loves a Hell of a Man" (It really is a single; the same master was used for both sides). This reviewer unfortunately found the semi-whining vocals over twanging guitar to be thoroughly forgettable, no matter how excited the Missouri music moguls are over these guys.

*****

THE JOURNAL OF BORDERLAND RESEARCH Vol. XLII #5 ($20/yr from BSRF, PO Box 549, Vista, CA 92083): The Borderland Sciences Research Foundation is back in touch with FF after a longhiatus, thanks to new editor Tom Brown. These guys keep track of all the novel and fringe efforts to come up with new sciences, normally centered around one sort of ray or energy or another. In this issue we have electron therapy, orgone blankets, the various ethers, the bio-energy transmitter, and of course the work of Nikola Tesla. BSRF also sells a number of books in this area and provides contacts to others doing similar work. Recently they seem to be adopting an attitude of "Enough talk -- let's see some action!" which could prove interesting if followed through.

*****

KICK IT OVER #16 ($1.50 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, TOronto, ONT M5W 1P2, CANADA): An anti-authoritarian tabloid that keeps putting out thought-provoking and occasionally infuriating issues. Of note this time around: Ron Hayley on "Anarchism and the Third World"; Alexandra Devon on running consensual meetings without heavy artillery; and a 2-page summary of US military intervention around the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The letter-column tends to be quite feiry, with KIO printing even quite negative responses to previous issues. There's also a lot of Central America stuff in this issue, which is probably important but of less interest to this parochial reporter.

*****

KLMN NEWS #5 ($1.50 from Oness Press, PO Box 336, Calpella, CA 95418): The quarterly publication of the Kid's Lib Movement Network, this one is full of positive energy and makes me feel good even while the creative spelling is forcing me to grit my teeth. (Just call me a traditionalist, I guess). More a mandala for the generation of ideas than a straightforward piece of linear text, a bit of time spent perusing this will result in many questions and ideas abotu childraising. Not having kids (yet), I don't know how realistic the open and totally loving approach to child-rearing presented here is, but it certainly sounds attractive.

*****

K.P. INC #5 (22¢ stamp from 3457 Fremont Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412): This is a very personal pfanzine, sort of one man's journey through the world of music. Dave starts off with a quick listing of the trade zines he has recieved for the last issue (proving that even 6 pages can be incredibly lucrative in terms of producing reading matter), and then goes on to discuss concerts he's attended and tapes he's heard since the last issue. His tastes are eclectic, with live performances from Van Morrison, Bruce Cockburn, the Volcano Suns, Soul Asylum, the Cramps and the Bangles just being a part of those reviewed here. handwritten but quite readable, and eclectic enough to possibly turn you on to something new.

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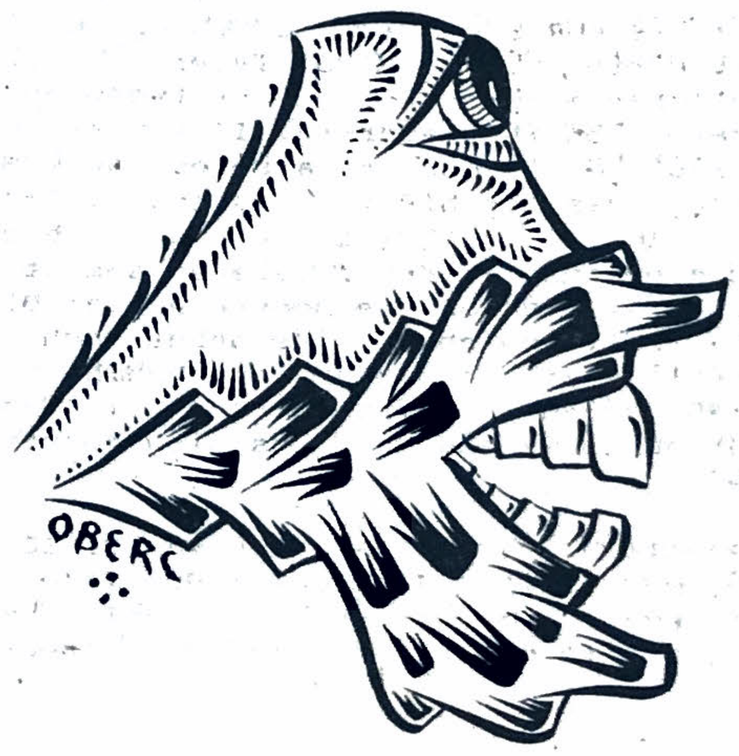

LAME BRAIN #5 ($1 from Brendan deVallance, 2215 S. Ford Ave., Chicago, IL 60616): A little (about 5" x 4") mail-art zine that includes pages from a whole batch of contributors (contributors, by the way, get free copies). There are a lot of familiar folks here, one page each: Blaster Al, Mike Miskowsi, Jake Berry, John Bennett and many more get into the act. Some short poetry, but mostly collages and drawings. Open this issue and a batch of postage-stamp size stuff falls out and buries itself in the mess on your desk.

*****

THE LARSEN FILE #67 ($3 from Harvey Larson, PO Box 4080, Torrance, CA 90510): A more-or-less monthly newsletter that includes things that don't make the establishment press as well as a supplement, THE CRYSTAL BALL, reprinting prognostications and predictions from all over. Much of this issue is filled with reprints from TLF #41, all about the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations, with fantastic charts showing their influence throughout the government, media and business. Harvey doesn't endorse all this stuff, just throws it out to provoke thoughts in his readers, which is what it's good for.

*****

LCD Summer '86 ($1 (?) from WFMU, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ 07019): Free in the NYC area, but you can't expect a non-commercial radio station to spend its money on postage for the likes of you. This is sort of a program guide from a "freeform" station that features jazz, calypso, "drunken brawl music", "space music for spaceheads", radical Christian rock, B-movie dialogue, and other things that can't find an advertiser to pay for them. Much of this guide is devoted to "look at us, aren't we nuts!?" writing, but some of it is interesting even if you can't get their station where you live.

*****

LGLC NEWSLETTER #15 ($2 from 1800 Market St. #210, San Francisco, CA 94102): The monthly newsletter of the Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns. Libertarianism is a natural philosophy for those oppressed to a large extent by the state (the negative aspects, such as anti-sodomy laws and required contact tracing, far outweigh the few anti-discrimination laws that protect some gay rights). And if this leads folks like LaRouche to identify the LP as the "sodomy party", I'm sure no one involved with this is overly concerned. Part political activism, part gay news (chiefly on health issues).

*****

THE LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST Vol. 5 #5 (On request from The Familist Movement, 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): Another journal which applies Libertarian theory to a specific area of society, in this case the family unit. Tom Tanaka's "Parental Rights" is definitely the high point of this issue; in it he considers what a "right of custody" might mean in a reasonable world, and how children's and parent's rights can be successfully balanced against one another.

*****

THE LITTLEST UNICORN Vol. II #8 ($7/yr from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): This is a pagan zine aimed at the young folk. Unfortunately it's handicapped by a dearth of submissions and perhaps a not very clear idea of what age bracket it's aiming at. While there may well be a need for a journal that the kids will like (as opposed to one for their parents, a niche admirably filled by such as the PPL NEWSLETTER), it's difficult to see how this will hold their interest. Of course, if enough readers start sending in good stories, ritual ideas, and articles that are simple but not condescending, LU could be easily turned around.

*****

LITTLE FREE PRESS #54A-#54D (Ernest Mann, 2714 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 56443): To get on the mailing list for this, send Ernest a card telling him you'll make two copies of his pamphlets and pass them on. His basic plan is to publicize the "Free System", a new anti-economics involving production for people instead of for profits. This four-part special issue is quite fascinating, involving feedback from his correspondents around the world. Clearly this idea of living without money strikes a chord with many people, and even if we can't switch over the apparatus of the state, an extensive network of dropouts may manage to find happiness for themselves. Try an issue or two and see if you're one of them.

*****

THE LITTLE RHINO GAZETTE #2 ($1.50 from Undercover Publications, PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): This is the "some of our favourite things" issue, with selected listings of zines, bands, places to eat, comix, video rentals, and more. There's also some original poetry and comix and whatnot. Cousin complains about the state of alternative radio in his part of Texas, and there's an unusual listing of fan clubs (but why would anyone join a Stevie Nicks fan club?).

*****

LIVELY ARTS #6 ($1.50 (?) from PO Box 4906, San Diego, CA 92104): This pfanzine is starting to cover more big names and concentrate less on local in-jokes, and put together with their impeccable production they may have a winning combination. Check out, for example, the lovely photo of a burnt-out GG Allin next to a very short, very profane interview. Or, for that matter, take a look at some of the novel interviews they've done with others: The Doctor is polled on the countries his band has toured, while Charlie Harper of the UK Subs is queried about his opinions on other bands. Great photos, colorful paper, short but different interviews. Check 'em out.

*****

LIVING FREE #35 ($1.50 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): This is "a personal journal of self-liberation", put out by a guy who describes himself as "a devious & sneaky semi-anarchist in minarchist's clothing [maybe]". Whatever he is, Jim puts together a nice potpourri of material ranging from the roots of vonu's past to the future prospects for libertarian secessionist communities. I personally find the how-to stuff from J. Garwood to be the most fascinating part of LF, but there are plenty of theoretical articles as well as the practical advice for keeping to yourself & avoiding the government. Much more realistic, at least in the short run, than fantasies of seizing power through electoral or revolutionary means.

*****

LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES #865 ($1 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164): Though there are some articles here, this is actually a fat catalog rather than a zine. All of the articles concern books published by Llewellyn, an extremely diversified publisher of "Astrology and New Age books". There's stuff here on astrology, the Golden Dawn, amssage, holistic health, past lives, witchcraft, and who knows what else. They also sell cassette tapes, computer programs, and various astrological services. Llewellyn is big enough to get their wares into large bookstores, but by a careful reading of the catalog you can find the occasional sale and get some strange stuff at least a bit cheaper.

*****

THE LOG CABIN #84 ($1 from Louisa Poulin, HC-38, Box 1178, Winchester, VA 22601): The newsletter of the MENSA Special Interest Group on BTTL, which adds up to "Back to the Land" -- in other words, homesteaders and kindred souls. Written by the

ontaining a ritual and background material. 48 ages. $7.

*****

UNSOUND Vol. 3 #1 ($3 from 801 22nd St., San Francisco, CA 94107): A very impressive review of far-out art and music. Clocking in at 96 beautiful pages (and thus worth the hefty cover price), there are half a dozen major articles and then endless amounts of networking. Major pieces this time on Die Todliche Doris, Vittore Baroni, Richard Kostelantz and the CHurch of the SubGenius, among other heavyweights. Swinging Axe Productions gets interviewed in amongst the cassette reviews, and there's also a listing of record labels and one of distributors along with the more usual zines and tapes. An invaluable reference whether you're after art, arty music, musical art, music or none of the above.

*****

UP FROM THE ASHES #5 ($1.50 from Emma Goldman Resource Group, PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2, CANADA): This is headlined "A journal of contemporary Green theory and practice" and I think that adequately covers it. The lead article, "Toward a Green Programme for Toronto" is a thoughtful look at what needs to be done and what resources will be needed to build a viable alternative in an urban setting. There are even some ideas for concrete action that could lead somewhere, if followed up on. I'm less enchanted by Don Alexander and Brian Tokar's respective thoughts on technocracy and technology from a Green standpoint. Though they identify part of the problem, I don't think they show a lot of familiarity with previous discussions of the area, and the action suggestions are (as with much of this literature) generally missing, implausible, or impossible to implement. But UFTA can't really be criticized for an incomplete critique of technology, since the rest of the Left is in the same boat. On the whole, this is thought-provoking and worth looking into.

*****

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. V #8 ($3 from peggy Poor, PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): A nifty little Constitutionalist periodical with a roasting lawyer on the cover this month. Inside is a veritable potpourri of news about tax resistance, the illegal shenanigans of the federal government, slave labor in federal prisons and much more. This issue contains the other side of the story about judge Harry Claiborne of Nevada who recently found himself impeached.

*****

UTOPIA TIMES Vol. 3 #10 ($15/yr from PO Box 867, Canton, CT 06019): that's Utopia as in the band containing Todd Rundgren, not as the ultimate political system -- this is another single-band fanzine. Contains much of what you expect in such a zine, including discographies, a guide to posters, news on what Todd and the band are up to, and so on. Subscribing makes you a member of the Fan CLub, whatever that is good for.

*****

THE VALLEY FEVER Vol. 6.1 (56¢ SASE from PO Box 35031, Tucson, AZ 85740): An alternative literary tabloid. Poetry, concrete poetry, story fragments and other confusing images swirl about the unwary reader. Every once in a while a coherent thought stabs forth, only to get lost once again in short order.

*****

A VERY SMALL MAGAZINE Vol. II #5 (55¢ & SASE from Beth Blevins, PO Box 24, Boone, NC 28607): Indeed, this is very small - minicomic size - but the space is put to good use. This issue publishes a new translation of the diaries of the Virgin M., while the special expanded Fascion Section discusses the phenomenon of the "makeover". There's also a comic smuggled in from either France or Russia, I'm not sure which, lending a cosmopolitan flavor to the whole thing.

*****

VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW Vol. 11 #10 ($15/yr from PO Box 7515, Bonney lake, WA 98390): Take a deep breath, this one concentrates on "Folk, jazz, irish, dance, children's, modern acoustic, blues, contemporary original, women's, Dixie, and ethnic" music. Whew! It's all in here somewhere, along with news about VM's shows and albums. There's an exhaustive calendar of area events, album reviews, and columns devoted to all different kinds of music. A place for those who don't fit in with any of the current trends.

*****

VIDEO DRIVE-IN #10 ($3.50/10 issues from PO Box 32313, Columbus, OH 43232): Another one for the crowd who rent the splatter films at the local video place -- why do you think they stock so many of them? The films reviewed in this mag are the rock bottom of the genre (at least, I certainly hope they are!). This issue: Three on a Meathook, Pieces, and Hitler's Harlots, together with an article on the roller-coaster career of Traci Lords.

*****

VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 2 #3 ($10/yr from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): The tabloid newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. The lead article and editorial this issue dicuss the insurance crisis (that is, that juries are handing out too much cash); also in for a mention is the Meese Commission, the IRS' failure to collect taxes, and the poor distribution of marijuana on the East coast.

*****

THE VOICE OF ZEWAM #54 (75¢ from Brendan Donegan, PO Box 196, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522): Zewam Amola was a fairly obscure Labradorian native who grew up to write critically-acclaimed but underpublished fiction, poetry and absurdist drama. This fanzine exists to preserve her memory and carry on the tradition of meaningful obscurity. #54 contains the second installment of one of her long-lost novels, a short story by Don Webb, letters, art, poetry and miscellaneous whatnot.

*****

THE VOLUNTARYIST #22 ($3 from PO Box 1275, Gramling, SC 29348): A zine that is trying to keep alive the ideal of non-electoral libertarianism against the encroachments of both State and Libertarian Party. This issue contains discussion of how many people governments have killed without so much as a war for an excuse, plus an article by Thomas Szasz on protecting the rights of the possible psychiatric patient. Editor Carl Watner is considering increasing the frequency and size of the VOLUNTARYIST; drop him a line if you can contribute articles or support to this cause.

*****

VULTUR #2 ($1 CASH from C.P. 95, Stn. Place d'Armes, Montreal, PQ H2Y 3E9, CANADA): Billed as the "Journal of the Unorthodox", this one is fashioned around a core of prisoner contact addresses but contains a mishmash of other material. Topics include a nutbar Presidential candidate, the Hundredth Monkey phenomenon (which, incidentally, is an invention of the Left rather than a scientific fact), and the continuing struggle by San Francisco anarchists Billy Mick & Christine to retrieve their daughter from the state.

*****

WALL-OP ($1 from Kerry Thornley, 2981 Lookout, Atlanta, GA 30305): Yes, Kerry is still on the loose and sending out packages of bizarre mail to anyone who sends him money. Contents may vary, so don't take this review as gospel, but I got a batch of Discordian and SubGenial posters, speculations on the origin of the Pope, and an ad for Kerry's Folk-Write books (quite similar in style to his continuing FF columns). Get in touch, send some

money, and stand back.

*****

WAR TURTLES #9 ($1 from Martin, 2935 Sloat Rd., Pebble Beach, CA 93953): The middle of this booklet is a comic, detailing the adventures of two young turtles in their search for ever-better weaponry. Vaguely surreal but not completely divorced from the everyday life of talking turtles. Sandwiching this are an editorial (complaining about all the tourists) and a batch of reprinted news stories. I especially liked the confrontation between Mayor Clint Eastwood and his skateboarding constituents. Too bad they didn't make his day.

*****

WHEN ALL REASONING STOPS...THE KILLING STARTS!! (50¢ & SASE from Rudy Felt, PO Box 1166, Brookline, MA 02146): Short gory stories and short poetry. Let me give you a fairly representative sample, called "Pudding": "The rock had smashed/Into her head/Pudding poured out/Its shade was red". Punk doggerel.

*****

WHOLE LIFE #3 ($20/yr from Subscription Dept. B, 89 Fifth Ave. #600, New York, NY 10003): It looks like WHOLE LIFE TIMES has slickened its act to become "A Journal for Personal and Planetary Health". There are all the vegetarian, health, gardening and holistic new age alternative articles one could want, but you know what makes this issue worth mentioning? The cover girl is Wendy O. Williams, and inside she talks all about health food and yoga and stuff. Just thought you'd like to know.

*****

WIGGANSNATCH #21 ($2 from James Moore, PO Box 20061, Seattle, WA 98102): WS has metamorphosed again and is now "A Neo-Pagan Journal of Ideas and Personal Experience". So much for the fictional focus and the drift away from the pagan community -- changing the focus of one's zine is very tough, as James found out. So now there's rituals and rites, comics and metaphysics, tied up in a neatly-typeset little package. Of particular interest in this issue is an article by Bob Gustafson ("Some thoughts on Shamanism in the Pagan Community") that was rejected by CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS, together with commentaries from a bunch of other pagans. There's still some fiction lurking here, and "Looking for Leptons" by Ralph Vaughan really tickled my punny bone.

*****

THE WOLSKE'S BAY STAR #3A ($10/12 issues from PO Box 64, Menomonie, WI 54751): I find myself completely baffled by this "International Public Newspaper". It carries a bunch of ads from local businesses, so someone must read it, but why? The only thing that makes sense is "The Weez Predicts", a sports column. The rest of this news is very confusing, even if it does only fill about two pages. Somebody help.

*****

WORLD WAR 3 ILLUSTRATED #6 ($2 from 176 E. 3rd St., New York, NY 10009): This one strikes a great balance between being entertaining and being socially conscious. That is to say, it focuses on real problems but isn't annoyingly doctrinaire. In a variety of cartoon, art and prose formats this issue concentrates on homelessness and housing. Gentrification is explored, governmental policies the put people out on the streets are revealed, and alternatives are suggested (such as homesteading, which might be characterized as "responsible squatting"). About half the issue is on the theme, the rest tackles things like the bombing of Libya, the sterility of the mainstream media, and the Statue of Liberty renovation. By now there should be an issue on technology and society out, and I'm anxiously awaiting it.

*****

WRAKVEE #5 (from Hoge Holt 27, 7909 BG HO OGEVEEN, HOLLAND): The good news is that this is a pfanzine. the bad news is that it's in Dutch, insidiously close enough to English that you almost think you can understand it. "Second Siberia is een andere hardcore band uit Amersfoort die al een aardig repertoire begint op te bouwen ven langzame tot snelle hardcore/noize." Huh?

*****

WRPI PROGRAM GUIDE Fall 1986 (On request from WRPI Plaza, Troy, NY 12180): Like most college radio guides, this one is pretty disposable if you're not in the area. What gets it listed here is Aaron Heller's "The Listener's Guide to FM Audio Signal Processing", detailing all the lovely things engineers do to your music before it gets to you. Also has an interview with the owner of RRRecords and some music reviews, as well as the expected schedules and show descriptions.

*****

X IT OUT #3 ($2 from PO Box 1102, Allston Station, MA 02134): "If this issue doesn't get a good review in FACTSHEET FIVE, we give up." Ahh the feeling of power...Fear not, folks, for XIO is improving rapidly and now has some cause to call itself a humor magazine (so why is it labeled "Boston's Magazine of Reality" instead?). The best is last in the form of Reginald "Squeegie" Potempkin's maddeningly self-referential detective story, which plays fast and loose with the rules. Also of note are Bob Black on pseudonyms and Jennifer Camper's cartoons (too bad she writes an advice column too). At 28 pages and at least 25% redeeming, this isn't bad.

*****

X,Y,Z ($1 from PO Box A-3597, Chicago, IL 60690): This is a "Poetry Newsletter", which means that it is about rather than full of poetry. Editor Glenn Sheldon does his best to keep tabs on the markets for poetry out there which pay in contributor's copis (i.e., not professional). Of particular use is the listing of dead zines and the groupings by theme (for example, zines that consider political poetry).

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YESTERDAY'S MAGAZINE July-Aug. 1986 ($6/yr from Independent Publishing Co., PO Box 15126, Sarasota, FL 34277): This is apparently a tabloid designed to encourage budding writers by forcing them to concentrate on what they know: themselves and their own memories. The pieces published here are all snippets of memory, some directed towards a particular theme, others just retellings of incidents, and a few in verse. The publisher also holds contests with nominal cash prizes. It must work for some folks; there are testimonial letters here from those who have gone on to have other stories accepted in paying markets.

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YOUTH '86 Vol. VI #9 (On request from 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, CA 91123): Aimed at the college and high school crowd, this one has articles on avoiding stress, avoiding sex, the necessity of learning, the dangers of steroids, and a Biblical advice column. Look at the title page and, sure enough, this is another wing of the Worldwide Church of God. Should be on your shelf, right next to THE PLAIN TRUTH.

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YOUTH CONNECTION #1 ($5/yr (students) or $10/yr (others) from Terry Inman, 3910 Nara Dr., Florissant, MO 63033): I would class this new libertarian newsletter as 'radical Partyarch'; that is, Terry gets along with the idea of a Libertarian Party but doesn't think it goes far enough. This is an attempt to get some sort of revived Libertarian Students Network going again on college campuses around the world. Hardcore or not, I hope it succeeds, if only to counter the rightwingers and ROTCs. A particular hook for comment in this issue is the proposed 10 Points for the Libertarian Student Network; why not send for a copy and see if you'd like to get your two cents' worth in?

*****

MOSKITOZUMOJ n-ro 2 (SASE & a stamp from Herbert Ashe, 1614 Postoffice St. #1, Galveston, TX 77550): Despite the Esperanto title, 95% of this single-sheeter is readable by those who speak only English, without even Fannish being required. In this issue, Herb reviews a few zines inthe Green or social activism tradition, goes to the movies, and proposes strange matchups for musical collaborations.

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MS. ANTI-SOCIAL ($1.75 from Tom Roberts, 333 S. East Ave. #209, Oak Park, IL 60302): Some of you may remember the ANTI-SOCIAL line of comics from Tom (back issues still available for $2.50 each). This is a smaller (both in size and pagecount) interim product to fill the gap while his savings recover from teh previous ventures. MS.AS is written by, about and perhaps even for women, featuring love stories, recipes, a makeup makeover, and some tales of modern corporate maneuverings, all carried out with impeccably bad taste. Tom's own detailed inking is present on most pages, and I suspect his warped sense of humor is too. Try this and perhaps you'll go on to the main line of ANTI-SOCIAL comics.

*****

MUSICADE CATALOG ($1 (?) from PO Box 880292, San Diego, CA 92108): This one is for those folks who like "Rock Collectibles and Investibles". I don't have the faintest idea what the market is about, so I can't advise you on prices, but these folks have quite a selection: T-shirts, trading cards, buttons, backstage passes, key chains, earrings, posters, tapestries (tapestries?), photographs, caps and who knows what else. All major groups, not punkers.

*****

MUSI-CALL 1985-86 ($2 from 162 Stanton St. #B, New York, NY 10002): This is a great idea made reality thanks to a lot of work on the part of editor Rick Miller. It's a directory of North Carolina music, about the size of a small college catalog. Listed are bands (with contacts, availability, discography, recent dates, musical descriptions, and quotes), individual musicians and a horde of support services, including attorneys, clothing, studios, record companies and much more. The back has maps of major NC cities with musically interesting spots marked. If Rick's ambitious, he can take this concept to other areas and make a veritable fortune. If you're in or anywhere near NC, buy a copy.

*****

THE MUTATOR #1 ($3 from PO Box 40271, Berkeley, CA 94704): A bit of history: Once there was a zine called HIGH FRONTIERS, which grew into a huge collection of strange stuff on self-metaprogramming, sex, drugs, rock and roll, conspiracy theories and so on. Two issues were printed and then the money ran out. Enter the MUTATOR: From the same folks, this is a quickie 8-pager, with some thoughts ont he future of the NeoPsychedelic Pop Party and a plea for funds to get HF#3 out. For your money you're not getting much of a zine, but you do increase the chances of a better one down the line, and you can help write the platform of the NPP. Recommended only for the hardcore RA Wilson/Tim Leary/John Lilly/Jack Sarfatti fanatic.

*****

MYSTIC PRESS Oct. 1986 (Free from PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231): "Home Spun Magic Delights" is the subtitle, but the contents are a strange mix. Some of the homespun ideas include keeping grass (the lawn kind) indoors for your pets to nibble and keeping a bar of Lava soap atop the electric meter to reduce your bill. The lead article this time is a strongly worded, almost hysterical anti-drug and anti-Satanism column. Also some speculations on the number 13 and the founding of the US government.

*****

N D 6 ($2 from PO Box 4144, Austin, TX 78705): This issue is sort of slim but still contains much vital information on the cutting edge (or at least the lunatic fringe) of the art world. Contains listings of mailart shows (plus some thoughts on the future of mail art, a rare bit of reflection from a long-time practitioner), an interview with Carl Howard of A/a magazine, and a long interview with Nicholas Collins, electronic composer. Also tape reviews, contacts, and information on upcoming audio and video versions of ND.

*****

NEW HORIZONS Summer/Fall 1986 ($10/yr from Twin Cities HEAL, 7104 Bristol Blvd., Edina, MN 55435): A journal from a chapter of the national group Human Ecology Action League. They seem to be concerned with environmentally-caused diseases, which is indeed an important topic, but I don't think much of their approach here. The articles appear to be technical ones about oxygen therapy, the dangers of mercury amalgam dental fillings, acupressure and so on. However, upon closer inspection one realizes that there are no footnotes or references to other literature or research to allow the confirmation of the (sometimes wild) claims made. This is not good science, though it may be a good vehicle for the advertisers of vitamins, air filters, and the like.

*****

A NEW IRON COLUMN No. IX ($6/4 issues from Creative Anarchist Networks, 1728 W. Ball #4, Anaheim, CA 92804): This is sort of a Reader's Digest of the communal left. There are very few new articles, but lots of reprints of things like Bakunin on statism and anarchy, Cesar Chavez on migrant workers and pesticides, and yours truly on Industrial Engineering. However, this is not because the staff are lazy but rather because they are busy on other projects, and the publicity for these other projects does make it into ANIC. Curently the CAN are involved in organizing a Women's anarchist group and a chapter of the International Music Workers' Union. They've also helped put on concerts to raise money for the Big Mountain Indians. A good source for information on suppressed minorities within the US.

*****

NEW LIBERTARIAN NOTES & CALENDAR 17.1 ($1.50 from NLCo, 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd., #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): This is the interim news sheet that Sam Konkin and friends are putting out between issues of NEW LIBERTARIAN. It contains late-breaking news plus a calendar of libertarian events, and so far has stayed on schedule and timely. The price is a bit high for 4 pages, but in a combined subscription with NL (one year of each for $17.50) it becomes a bargain.

*****

THE NEW MUSIC INFORMER #3 (60¢ from CHris Murtland, 3514 Millhaven Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27106): This pfanzine concentrates on pretty much the well-known groups that have cult followings: Boomtown Rats, R.E.M., Smiths. There is also a leavening of newer groups like Identity Crisis and Guadalcanal Diary, plus a column on the Charlotte music scene by Fred Mills. Basically, this seems to be a zine in search of an identity itself.

*****

NEW PATHWAYS #4 ($2.50 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75042): NP has added a review column since the last issue I read but is still for the most part concentrating on short fiction from up-and-coming authors. Editor Mike Adkisson objects to being classed a semi-prozine but that's what NP is; not as ephemeral as a sfanzine or as established as a prozine. The future may hold greater success, though. Notable in this issue are Don Webb's "The Bradford Contract", a story of insanity in the office, and Czu Goetz's apocalyptic "The Foolproof Plan". Also featured are stories by Paul Di Filippo, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, and Gary Biggs. The new

fiction editor is Misha Chocholak; send all submissions to her at PO Box 38, COve, OR 97824.

*****

THE NEW TIMES Vol. 2 #5 ($7.50/yr from PO Box 51186, Seattle, WA 98115): "The Northwest's Monthly New Age Community Newspaper", this tabloid will give you a good idea of what New Agers are up to these days. The centerfold "For Your Information" section is full of contact addresses and "connections", while the ads are a cross-section of things from Feldenkrais to OOBE's to crystals. Articles cover such topics as "Reclaiming Your Life", astrology, the cervical cap, and sensory isolation tanking. There's also a plug for a "world instant of cooperation", to be held 12/31/86 at 12 noon GMT (7AM EST, 4AM PST) in which we are all to think good thoughts to change the world.

*****

NEW UNIONIST #113 (30¢ from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A four-page propaganda tabloid. "The New Union Party seeks to bring the entire economy under the ownership and control of all the people....To achieve this new economic system, the workers need to unite in one rank-and-file controlled union." My own feeling is that their conclusion doesn't follow from the premise, which makes much of their union preaching irrelevant to future change. They do do an excellent job of unmasking the hidden face of capitalism, though.

*****

NFD JOURNAL Sept. 1986 ($15/yr from PO Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803): "The National Federation for Decency is a Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in the American society with primary emphasis on television and other media." In other words, as far as most of us are concerned, they're the enemy. Threats to decency discussed in this issue include cable-TV in Holiday Inns, Garbage Pail Kids trading cards, Marvel comics, and Dr. Ruth Westheimer. These are the sort of people who make Ed Meese feel like he represents the country.

*****

NO 4 ($2 from Johnson/Meyer, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): This one makes it out of the Poetry section by also including roughly equal doses of very short fiction and artwork. "Dementia" is the subtitle on this issue and it fits; from Chris Toll's "In the Bar", a story of the cruising life run amok, to Brad Johnson's semi-autobiographical "After Many Cigarettes in the Day Room", the characters here are all pretty demented. Eddie Van Horn contributes a couple of powerful poems about the prison experience and Walt Phillips checks in with some minimalist line-drawing nudes. The only thing I didn't like was the long obscene excerpt from Jim Chandler's FROGSKIN SOLO, which applied some command of the language to a basically boring situation. They're looking for work geared to "Deviation, Arts and Letters, Romantics and Concentration" for future issues.

*****

NO HUMANITY ZINE #1 (50¢ from Sean Rieschel, 507 NW Alpine #302, Newport, OR 97365): A mishmash pfanzine without too much meat in the first issue. Sean and co-producer Larry Baker have thrown together a batch of stuff including lots of moody thoughts and a few ads and photos, but they need to find a few features to go along with the filler.

*****

THE NOISE #55 ($8/yr from T. Max, 74 Jamaica St., J.P., Boston, MA 02130): THE NOISE has a well-developed personality yet there are always fun surprises in it. This issue leads off with the Flange Sisters' usual barrage of Boston-area rock gossip and then segues into an article on Birdsongs of the Mesozoic. A few pages later we find, amazingly, a critical review of media darling Throwing Muses' latest album, proving that the NOISE staff actually listens to records before writing their articles. Later on, slipped in amongst the music news, is a report on the Beer Chess Tourney (one before every move, one after every piece lost) between the victorious NOISE staff and the members of Beat Surrender. the whole package is wrapped up by Fitz's cartoon on the evils of cocaine. An essential guide to new music in beantown.

*****

NOISE #11 (22¢ postage from Tim Adams, 306 Zahn Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556): I suppose it's inevitable that there be two pfanzines with this title. Yes, there is new music going on at Notre Dame, and a good deal of it finds its way into this zine. There's a long interview with Yo La Tengo and a batch of live show reviews that fill up most of the issue. The best of these is int he form of a conversation between the co-editors slagging the house band at the club they visited. Also a few record reviews and a plea for some help in getting the damned thing published.

*****

NOMADIC UNDERGROUND #3 (50¢ from Brad, PO Box 72003, Marietta, GA 30007-2003): A pfanzine that puts a lot more effort into being informed, aware and political than most. Their stance is mainly one of being against the right wing without being in favor of the far left. Though unusual, it's certainly interesting to read a pro-education editorial in a pfanzine; the same can be said of the "Punks vs. Christians" analysis. There is music here as well, with interviews with Doggy Style and the Muff-Dive Theorem, as well as a tribute to D.Boon and record and zine reviews. My only gripe is that some of the dot-matrix print is soooo reduced as to be almost illegible -- but I understand the poverty that drives zine editors to do things like that.

*****

NOMOS Sept./Oct. 1986 ($3 from 727 S. Dearborn #212, Chicago, IL 60605): After 4 years in business, NOMOS is definitely providing a service to the Libertarian community by encouraging articles debating the basic moral ground of the Libertarian philosophy. Of particular interest in this issue are Steve Givot's argument in favor of the LP (I fear, though, that he completely misses the point about sanctioning the political process) and especially Peter Boettke's "The Market is a Spontaneous Order". After so long with "Studies in Spontaneous Order" as a subtitle, it's good to see an explanation of this idea from more or less first principles. Even Libertarians shouldn't expect to agree with everything here; they should, however, find the debates very interesting and thought-provoking.

*****

NO NAME PRESS #2 (39¢ postage from 611 Lawrence Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090): Editor Paul Sommerstein seems to be surviving in the suburbs by the simple ruse of ingesting as much dangerous hardcore music as he possibly can. Along with the usual record and show and zine reviews, Paul interjects a few flaming rants of his own, spewing a little vitriol for the edification of the reader and the good of his soul. The local school board, the Statue of Liberty celebration, and mowing the lawn all come in for his critical attention. Also a Fuzztones interview in this ish.

*****

NON STOP #9 (30¢n stamps from Tomasz Kolodziejczyk, Dekabrystow 26-30 DS-5, POK. 422, 42-200 Czestochowa, POLAND): Available from FF's Polish correspondent. I don't know how he can ship this out so cheaply, or what he does with U.S. stamps, but that's what he says. He'd probably rather get tapes of American music anyhow. No doubt this zine will be a mystery to my readers, as of course it's printed in Polish, with the exception of the occasional band name. I can at least tell which

article is about the poster in Frankenchrist thanks to the proper names it contains. An interesting curiousity. If anyone reads Polish, drop me a line.

*****

NON-STOP BANTER #9 ($1.50 from 16700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462): Instead of trying to cover the whole music world, these folks have chosen to focus in on bits and pieces in some depth. Take fanzines, for instance. Rather than mention 100 zines they received, they sent questionnaires out to a couple of editors and report on those fanzines only (and I'd say this even if FF wasn't one of the featured ones). They did the same thing with alternative radio stations, and the record reviews are also quite selective. (The best reviews are in the "Familiarity Breeds" column, where several staffers comment on each record, giving a cross-section of opinion). And of course, they interview bands: Meat Puppets, Sonic Youth, Blue Trapeze, Precious Wax Drippings, and more. A great issue.

*****

NORTHERN SUN Vol. 9 #9 ($10/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): This is the "Special war and peace issue" of this activist tabloid, but the news still covers a lot of ground. The decision of the appeals court denying a new trial to Leonard Peltier is on the front page. Inside we find such popular topics as Star Wars and nuclear missiles (some Midwestern activists have compiled maps showing missile silos and giving them humorous names). Other articles cover the local opposition to a planned huge National Guard base, the Great Peace March, and European Peace movements. Though strapped for money, NS is an encouraging resource for the activist who occasionally feels overwhelmed. There's a lot more caring people out there, and many of them can be found in these pages.

*****

NOTES FROM OBLIVION #13 & #14 ($2 [13] or $1 [14], the Usual, or personal letters from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048): NFO 13 is a collection of the best of the first ten issues, when Jay was writing light-hearted and irreverent stuff for D'APA. It's full of chuckles, collages, and maybe even a dab of philosophy, and is a showcase of that period of Jay's work. The more recent issues, as exemplified by #14, are of a more serious bent, provoked in large part by Jay's continuing eye problems (consider sending your letter via cassette). He's now wrassling with such questions as the sanctity of the medical profession, the possibility of alternatives to corporate media, and why his world seems so different from normal peoples'. Jay is looking for communication from his readers, and has some curious speculations to provoke it.

*****

NOVUS #32 ($2 from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): A look at the record reviews will convince you that the NOVUS staff are as knowledgable about current music as anyone: Green on Red, Husker Du, Dumptruck all appear. But the major articles and interviews focus on a different type of music: jazz, reggae, and Hawaiian native music are most often discussed. Centerpiece of this issue, for example, is jazzman Winton Marsalis; reggae artist Mutabaruka also gets a major mention. NOVUS is thus filling a niche that few other pfanzines are even close to, and with their nice layout, slick covers and thoughtful articles they fill it well.

*****

THE ODINIST #99 ($5/yr from PO Box 1647, Crystal River, FL 32629): Some people will see evidence of anti-semitism in the condemnations of Zionism and the equating of Odinism with Aryanism here. As far as I am concerned, though, there is no convincing evidence of hate for other groups, only a pride in the racial group of the authors. Be that as it may, this is a mildly political, mostly pagan zine for those seeking to recover the Aryan religion before the influence of Christianity. This issue gives a translation of some ancient work on Sweden, discusses the God-Force behind the Norse gods, and reprints a summary of Wiccan beliefs provided by the North Carolina Church and School of WIcca.

*****

OFF THE DEEP END #1 ($1 (?) from PO Box 85874, Seattle, WA 98145-1874): "Believe Nothing But Listen To Everything is the philosophy presented here." This is a zine for the confused Fortean, for the person who has read the ILLUMINATUS! trilogy four times and doesn't think it's far out enough. The editors prove that if you keep an open mind anything can fall in. A few of the topics in these pages: the Tychonian Society (a geocentric group), trisecting the angle, the Oregon Vortex, Animal rights, the Church of Satan andserial murderers, L. Ron Hubbard's novels, and the Illuminati Game. Past zines in this genre (anyone remember MASTER MONOGRAPH? HIGH FRONTIERS?) have tended to vanish without a trace, but perhaps OTDE will do better.

*****

ONE SOLUTION #7 ($2 from Morgan Gerard, 187 Neville Park, Toronto, ONT M4E 3P7, CANADA): This is the last issue of this pfanzine but Morgan says there are still plenty of copies available. The bands featured here seem to consist of young drunk men: Beefeater, Dag Nasty, Soul Asylum, Sudden Impact, and a couple more. Morgan also reviews a few fanzines, plugs his own back issues, and wonders what all the anti-apartheid fuss is all about. There's a whole batch of great band photos from the ONE SOLUTION benefit in the centerfold.

*****

OPTION J² ($2.50 from Sonic Options Network, PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): More news about and reviews of music you've never heard of than you can shake a stick at. Well, actually, you're likely to find something you know in these 90 pages -- this issue, for instance, Fela makes the cover and gives a major interview. But some of the other featured artists (Astor Piazzolla, Tippa Irie, Jandek) are a good deal more obscure. The only guiding rule for OPTION is to stick to independent recording companies and their products. Regular columns cover alternative radio, fanzines, records, cassettes, and electronic gear.

*****

OTHER NETWORKS Vol. 2 #3 ($4 from PO Box 14066, Philadelphia, PA 19123): This is a journal apparently written by and for "professional" networkers. This issue is devoted to "Many-to-Many Media", including ham radio, computer bulletin boards, and APAs (although they use the Action Linkage term, Many-to-Manys). There are some interesting thoughts on the parallels between these various media, including a discussion of ham radio excerpted from a CBBS. There's also some typically futurist thoughts about these conferencing systems being the social innovation of our times.

*****

OUTER SHELL #13 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): This one-sheeter pfanzine changes its spots all the time whilst maintaining some identity due to the continuing presence of such columnists as Shane Williams, Gary Pig Gold, and Roy Harper. #13 is the MTV issue, commemorating the fifth anniversary of this video institution, which gets mixed reviews from the various writers. This issue also features part of the continuing OS poll results.

*****

OUTLET #34 (£2.50 from Trev Faull, 33 Aintree Crescent, Barkingside, Ilford IG6 2HD, Essex, UK): The major quirk of this pfanzine is that it's printed only on one side of the paper. Past that idiosyncracy, though, lies a phenomenal knowledge of new and obscure music. This seems to be the

Disgusting issue, with articles on John Trubee (artist behind the famous "A Blind Man's Penis" recording), Zoogz Rift (frontman for The Shitheads), and Heavy Puke. Each article presents biographical information and discographies as well as miscellaneous tidbits of information. There are also plenty of reviews, and article on Jack Kerouac's recordings, and even a column on American music by our own Shane "He's Everywhere" Williams.

*****

OVERHEARD AT AMERICA'S LUNCH COUNTERS #3 ($2 (?) from Cherry Stone Press, 4715 16th NW, Seattle, WA 98105): OALC is a 64-page minicomic by Susan Catherine which has enjoyed a certain popularity in the oddball press. Each page is a seperate panel illustrating a single sentence overheard at some eatery or other, usually just by a drawing of the speaker and his or her audience. A few samples will serve to indicate Susan's facility for capturing the spoken rhythms of America: "You can't order that because they only come in one size. Expensive." "When Medical said they'd finally pay my bill I was so surprised I almost died." and "You might as well come along with us, Larry. We're not going anywhere." Susan is always looking for quotes accompanied by a statement of lunch-counterness.

*****

OVERTHROW Vol. 8 #2 ($1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): The Yippies are still at it with their own peculiar mix of revolution, humor, and conspiracy theory. This ish is full of news about the Greens, as one of the Yippies' controversial projects is one version of the North American Greens. There's also some phone number fun, anti-apartheid actions, "Inside the Phillipine Resistance", and an interview with alumnus Abbie Hoffman.

*****

OVO #1 ($1 from Trevor, PO Box 32061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061): Both the artist and his zines have enjoyed various other titles over the years, so this is not the unpolished project that the typical number one is. This features mainly work by Trevor himself, including a drawing, a photo of his room, and an explanation of his "audio fragmentation" technique for creating strange tapes. Also includes a catalog of other Ovo productions.

*****

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE NEWSLETTER July/August 1986 (SASE from Belinda, PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706): This is a breather issue of this newsletter, issued in the lull before the Autumn equinox issue. PPL is up to 140 members, all interested in one way or another in the problems involved in trying to raise a pagan child in our non-pagan society, while respecting the child's freedom to choose. The PPLN acts as a sort of clearinghouse for ideas and information between members.

*****

PANEGYRIA Vol. 3 #3 ($8/yr from Aquarian Tabernacle Church, PO Box 85507, Seattle, WA 98245): A pagan zine done on Twiltone paper via mimeograph, just like a more mainstream church bulletin. The ATC people are trying to provide part of the normal church infrastructure to the pagan community; in particular, they have some publishing facilities available and land for retreats and the like. The newsletter is interesting in its own right; particularly thoughtful was Towhee's discussion of the propieties of using alcohol in the circle. Also has the most extensive listing of pagan publications that I've seen.

*****

PANEGYRIC #2 (SASE from Joseph Kerrick, PO Box 29145, Philadelphia, PA 19127): A relatively new entry into the change the world sweepstakes, and one I have not yet deciphered. Joseph applies his own well-developed critical facilities to other millenial ideas, including the hopes of an Italian commune to leave the earth and, more prosaically, the output of one branch of the SubGenius church. While sympathetic to some of the drives behind these productions, he ultimately remains aloof, convinced that forms of dropping out without a purpose are pretty much pointless. To see a little of his alternative, ask for a copy of PANEGYRIC #1, wherein he advocates dropping out with a purpose. I think.

*****

PARADOX #4 ($1 (?) from Yurus, 676 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602): This is the "Art n' shit" issue and indeed, for the most part it is filled with strange art: bats, skulls, hallucinatory faces, nutty cats, confused punkers. Also contains a whole bunch of fanzine reviews and a few toy store reviews, plus the odd word or two on new music. Looking for submissions.

*****

PC NEWSLETTER 13 ($5/6 issues from 1725 E 115 St., Cleveland, OH 44106): This is a short issue containing just the essentials, as the Pollution Control folks (Pennie Stasik & Mark Edwards) are recently returned from gallivanting across the country. PC acts as a record distributor and networker between indie radio stations and small music publishers. The NEWSLETTER reports on airplay received, lists the music sent out in the monthly packages, and publishes news of general interest to the indie music community. Vital to musicians and small radio folks.

*****

PEACE & FREEDOM Vol. 45 #6-7 ($2 from WILPF, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107): This is the 70th anniversary issue of this publication, put out by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. As such, it is part retrospective and part plan for the future. These women (and men) have done a lot over the years, chiefly in the form of protest and education; such activities continue today, in places as diverse as Greenham Common and Cleveland. Based on moral rather than physical force.

*****

PEACE OIL FOR A RAT BRAIN COMICS #6 (25¢ & SASE from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): The themes of Carrie's minicomics are usually punk rock and cats, and in this issue the two are combined in "Johnny and the Yawning Cat". The skatepunk hero gets swallowed by a giant cat and it rather upsets his universe.

*****

PEACEWORK #157 (60¢ from AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140): From the Quaker group American Friends Service Committee comes this long-running "Peace & Social Justice Newsletter". The AFSC are thoroughly committed to nonviolence but this doesn't mean they're not active. Indeed, they're more ambitious than most violent revolutionary groups, with the lead article in this issue detailing steps towards a "Nonviolent Revolution by the Year 2000". Inside the articles cover all sorts of topics, even things you might not expect (like massage) as well as the more usual peace articles. There are also extensive listings of both resources and events. Binds together concerns from feminists, environmentalists, anti-nuclear activists, and many other peaceworkers.

*****

PEOPLE FINDERS Vol. 2 #2 ($1.50 from 528 S. Batavia Ave. #2A, Batavia, IL 60510): Just as the title says, this is for finding people: natural parents of adoptive children, missing children, long-lost relatives and friends, or just the members of ones family tree. There are stories here of successful searches, advice on where to find resources, and an extensive section of ads from those looking for various people. Comes complete with testimonials.

*****

PEPTALK Autumn 1986 ($1 (?) from PO Box 3912, Eugene, OR 97403): This is the quarterly newsletter of Polyfidelitous Educational Productions. As you might surmise from their name, they exist to promote polyfidelity, which is a form of closed group marriage. This issue has articles from a couple of cases that didn't work out as well as their more usual success stories, plus thoughts on home schooling and forming successful relationships.

*****

PERSUASION AT WORK Vol. 9 #7 ($1.50 from The Rockford Institute, 934 North Main St., Rockford, IL 61103): This bills itself as a journal in favor of democratic capitalism, the law, property rights, the work ethic and the family unit. Sounds relatively harmless, but this entire issue is taken up by an article titled "The Sensual School". It traces the history of birth control in America down to the modern on-campus clinics, and ends up by arguing that this is sapping our moral character and that we ought to return to more traditional methods of controlling teenage pregnancy, such as ostracism for unwed mothers.

*****

PHALLOS Oct. 1986 ($5/yr from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): "We print all the news the others say is not fit for print". This is the newsletter of the Church's Gay Rescue Mission, run by Rev. Donald Jackson. Don's ministry is among the poor gay men of the Bay Area, and he is very active in helping distribute food, clothing and so on to segments of the populations missed or ignored by larger charities such as United Way. The church also preaches what it claims is the original Christian doctrine of phallic worship, and PHALLOS secondarily serves as a journal for discussing the sexual content of the ancient faith.

*****

PHOBIA MAGAZINE #4 ($1 (?) from Elisabeth Alton, PO Box 5060, Kent, OH 44240): There appears to be quite a bit of cut-up poetry lurking in these pages. Personally, I always suspect such hangouts, but PM does seem to have some redeeming features, teetering as it is on the brink between poetry and mail art. There are collages and short short stories here as well as totoally random words and even some apparently thoughtful verse. The only thing that really sticks in my mind is Randy R.'s haiku about oatmeal, but that doesn't mean the rest is all brown sugar. Quite a chunk of the confusing avant-garde.

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PHOEBE Vol. 3 #6 (55¢ from James MacDougall, 1162 Routes 5 & 20, Waterloo, NY 13165): James wants me to warn you all that this is a monthly without many back issues, so you might get something that differs from my review. But you were smart enough to figure that out anyhow, right? Be that as it may, PHOEBE is "The Newsletter of Eccentricity", and each 6-page issue collects wire service news, combines it with other less reliable sources, and creates a picture of America today. In this issue we have elephant manure, Zsa Zsa Gabor, a winning cockroach, Garbage Pail Kids, and other ephemera of contemporary society. There is also the first set of nominations for the Bad Television Hall of Fame, containing shows so bad I haven't even heard of them.

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PHOSPORUS FLOURISH #17 (50¢ & SASE from John R., Box 2479 Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A zine of mail art with an overall dark and foreboding aspect. Maybe it's the guy crushed to death by the VW, or the handgun and tornado, or the nuclear blast, or just the falling leaves that give me this impression. Whatever the case, this is a collection of collages, drawing for the most part on contemporary sources rather than Dover clip-art archives. There are a couple of pieces that are recognizably from other artists, so perhaps John is open to submissions, digest sized.

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PIG PAPER #27 (Send stamps to Pig Productions, 70 COtton Dr., Mississauga, ONT L5G 1Z9, CANADA): This is Gary "Pig" Gold's single-sheeter pfanzine. His musical tastes range all over the map, so you can never be quite sure what you'll find here. In this particular case, there's an article about Bobby Fuller (who died under mysterious circumstances about 20 years ago), the Pig Productions Pop Parade, and a batch of clippings about the antics of swine around the world.

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PIGS PLOT #2 ($1 (?) from Chris Estey, 330 NE 90th, Seattle, WA 98115): Long-term FF readers will at once recognize the marginal milieu from which this comes, bearing works by Bob Black, Gerry Reith, Dan Todd, and the editor himself. Chris's own contribution is a quite illucid stream of unconsciousness drug story. Dan Todd checks in with an epitaph for past project Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, while Bob and the late Gerry are represented by reprints. Nothing too earthshaking here, but there is plenty of potential.

*****

PLANET DETROIT COMMUNIQUE (39¢ postage from PO Box 28414, Detroit, MI 48228): Poet Kurt Nimmo takes time out from his artistic schedule to dabble in politics for a few pages. The topic is technological subjugation, and in particular its relation to capitalism. Kurt reprints two essays: Murray Bookchin's "Towards a Liberatory Technology" and Bob Brubaker's "Anarchism and the Critique of Technology", and then follows them up with current stories of all the wonderful things cruise missiles, video monitors, and Chrysler are doing for us these days.

*****

PLENTY BULLETIN Vol. 2 #2 (Donation from PO Box 90, Summertown, TN 38483): Plenty is a "non-governmental relief and development organization", an outgrowth of The Farm, of which some of you may have heard. They put out this little magazine to let their supporters know what projects funds are going into. This time they report on a health care center in Lesotho, a project to plant crops on the Oglala Lakota reservation in SOuth Dakota, and a visit to refugee camps of Mayan Indians in Mexico. There is also an article on the Chernobyl disaster and its implications for nuclear power in the US.

*****

LA POIRE D'ANGOISSE 90 (From Didier Moulinier, 11 Rue de la Sagesse, 24000 Perigueux, FRANCE): A mail-art type digest from far far away. The price would appear to be 150 francs within the country, but you'd probebly be better off trading your own work. FOr the most part this consists of intricate line drawings, though there are also photographs and some text, including what appears to be a fanzine review column. The enclosed catalog also lists some audio tapes from the same address.

*****

POISON BRIGGS #5 (2 stamps from Julian, 975 Avondale Ave., CIncinatti, OH 45229): A pfanzine that's slanted towards the juvenile set, as evidenced by the breakfast cereal and after-school cartoon reviews. On the other tentacle, there's a bunch of hardcore stuff as well, including fanzine reviews, live show reviews of folks like Die Kruezen and Agnostic Front, and a couple of pages of photos of Samhain.

*****

POPULAR REALITY #15 (50¢ from PO Box 3402, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): A central node in the network of uncontrollable lunatics who are taking over America's underground. Included here are reprints of Bob Black's article on "marginals", suggestions on changing the world from "Evolution, Inc." and a batch of ads from other strange people. The letters

page reamins just this side of tactical nuclear weaponry, and the cover price is right for this tabloid.

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POPULIST MESSAGE Vol. 1 #3 (On request (?) from New Populist Forum, 1311 L St. NW #310, Washington, DC 20005): This reads sort of like a campaign literature apa. It's a forum for those politicians who believe in the "New Populism" (whatever that is) to make sweeping pithy statements designed to legitimize their position as something new. Names and faces here belong to folks like Newt Gingrich, Vic Fingerhut, Kevin Phillips, Carolyn Kazdin, and Fred Harris.

*****

POTBOILER 10 ($3.25 from Lari Davidson, Richards Road, Roberts Creek, BC VON 2WO, CANADA): A very impressive litmag dabbling in the fields of fantasy, horror, and SF. Every issue I find a couple of stories I really like; this time the winner is James Gray's "The Princess and the Warmer", a fairy tale with a twist, followed closely by Earl Geier's comic-strip format "Notions and the Knick-Knack Man". There are also good stories from Don Webb, Al Manachino and John R. Young, among others. 72 pages full-sized with nice printing and well-thought-out art, POTBOILER is on the high end of the semi-pro spectrum.

*****

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 4 #2 ($10/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): "A Utilitarian Approach" to arguing for libertarianism, TP takes a very down-to-earth view of the continuing debate over freedom. Notable this issue is the addition of Fritz Knese to the staff, presenting his continuing argument for self-sufficiency. Other topics discussed from the libertarian point of view include the bombing of Libya, South African sanctions, and the appointment of Rehnquist to head the Supreme Court.

*****

PROYECTO LIBERTAD Vol. 2 #2 (Donation from 110-A E. Jackson St., Harlingen, TX 78550): Remember Harlingen? It's where the Sandanistas and Cubans are going to come swarming into the US. This newsletter comes from a group of volunteer lawyers who are desperately -- and unfortunately, with few successes -- to help immigrants from Guatemala and El Salvador establish claims to political asylum. Besides money they need volunteers and Spanish reading material.

*****

PSYCHIC CONNECTIONS Fall-WInter 1986-7 ($10/yr from PO Box 670022, Marietta, GA 30066): This one opens up with a page of "Minds & Hearts" singles ads from New Agers and the like. Inside is a lot of networking for people interested in astrology, holistic health, parapsychology, psychic healing, magnetic phenomena, and so on. Lots of ads and reviews.

*****

PSYCHIC GUIDE Sept.-Nov. 1986 ($2.50 from PO Box 701, Providence, RI 02901): This is sort of like a WHOLE LIFE TIMES for the spiritualist lunatic fringe. Cover story this time is on "Ruth Montgomery, Herald of a New Age". Inside we find channeling (including the inevitable interview with the new Seth), subliminal persuasion, and New Age Music. There's also a nationwide guide to psychics, schools, pyramid sellers, and a shitload of ads. Very slick and very unconvincing to the skeptic.

*****

PULSE Summer 1986 (Details from Fopundation for National Progress, 1663 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103): This is the newsletter of the parent group for MOTHER JONES magazine. It has basically the same selection of topics and intellectual slant, but a chattier style and only six pages. No subscription details are given; it looks like it goes out to donors and supporters, whoever they may be.

*****

PUNCTURE #12 ($2 from 1674 Filbet St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94123): There are some innovative articles in this pfanzine. The first is a long review of Australian music which does not limit itself to the experimental and avant-garde rock most people think of in connection with down under -- aboriginal music and other things make an appearance here. The second is a history of the Subterranean Records label, from the earliest days to its present success. There are also a whole batch of live show reviews, some from farflung locations including London and Sydney, as well as records, tapes and books. A very nice looking and reading package.

*****

PUPPET METAPHOR #5 (2 stamps & ½" of hair from BJ Horgeshimer, Student Mailing Room, ANtioch College, Yellow Springs, OH 45387): Yes, you must send the hair -- the editor is working on a nationwide art project. This hovers in the uncertain area between mail-art and the BVI network, confusing all who run across it. Much of this issue is devoted to reprints from a 1970 high-school literary magazine; if BJ hadn't told us, it would be hard to guess the source. There are also some ravings from Patti Smith and a page of doodles. Many more titles available -- 5 for a buck and one inch of hair.

*****

PURPLE CABBAGE #2 ($2 from Eric Sinclair, 704 Gilchrist, College Station, TX 77840): "The homespun acidic indicator of base culture", whatever that means. One of the poems here has a line that might better describe the contents of this stew of art. poetry and prose: "My mind is a series of badly linked synonyms/structuring my days". The despair that bubbles up through much of the alternative literary press makes its obligatory appearance here, as do meaningless comis and suggestive drawings. Still a zine in search of a reason for existence.

*****

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #14 ($20/yr from 263A W. 19th St. #125, New York, NY 10011): For anyone who's been living in a barrel, PWA stands for People With AIDS & AIDS related conditions. More than anything else I've read this brings home the sheer amount of human suffering and death being caused by this illness. The NEWSLINE provides a forum for PWAs to discuss their hopes, dreams, treatments, successes and setbacks. They publish some news of medical advances (such as they are), information on support groups, and tributes to dead friends. Free to PWAs on request, but others are asked to contribute to help with the PWA Coalition's support work.

*****

R.A.D. #38 (50¢ from PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): A pfanzine covering the scene in Morro Bay and environs. This issue includes some handy addresses of the folks who are prosecuting Jello Biafra for obscenity, just in case you want to write and congratulate them or something. There's also more of Mykel Board's reviews of hopelessly obscure records, 6 pages of band photos, and live and recorded music reviews. Nice picture of headless undercover cops on the cover.

*****

RADIO FREE EUROPE #3 ($3.50 from Caryn Rose, PO Box M481, Hoboken, NJ 07030): This is the pfanzine for R.E.M. fans, not sponsored by the official fan club but instead written by just folks who really care about the band. This issue includes the current tour schedule (probably grinding to an end as you read this), first impressions of the Life's Rich Pageant album, and general nes and gossip. The price is high if you're not really into the band, but if you are, this is the place to be.

*****

RAISE THE STAKES #11 ($2 from Planet Drum

foundation, PO Box 31251, San Francisco, CA 94131): The PD folks are together to push the idea of bioregions, one of the strains of current ecological/Green thought. This tabloid is impressively thoughtful, with reasoned argument rather than just impassioned pleas. For example, this is the first place I've seen an economist evaluate the idea of decentralization. There are also articles on reforming our cities, coming to an accomodation with high tech, and the activities of various bioregional groups around the country.

*****

RANDOM WRITINGS #8 ($1 cash or $2 check/MO from Jim Stuff, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Jim puts this out whenever he's got five pages of stuff that don't fit into any of his other writing outlets. He's sort of a self-liberatory guy, who thinks a lot about how to be free even in the present world. Current topics include the idea of taking over the government of a small town, individual rights, defense, and secession. Includes letters from other libertarian activists.

*****

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET #9 (25¢ from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): This small pfanzine covers "Raunchy music for the culturally aware". Brad distinguishes a lot of shades among what others might be satsified to dismiss as just "industrial" or "noise". For example, the lead article this time refers to both Abrasive Music Theatre and Abrasive Caberet. A vital source of a small microcosm of new music.

*****

READERS' POLL #1 (3 stamps from Frank Kogan, 625 Ashbury #11, San francisco, CA 94117): This first issue is just a list of snide and confusing questions, but future issues will include answers from the readers as well. To stay on the mailing list you have to send stamps AND answer the current poll; I trust just the stamps will get you started the first time. We'll have to wait and see what this turns into.

*****

RED BUDDHA #10 (75¢ from Zandokan Budokai of America, PO Box 664, Mansfield, OH 44901): This is a zine that seeks to tie together the various spiritual warrior traditions from around the world and throughout history. This issue is devoted to the Native American way, the last one discussed Oriental ideas, the future holds an issue on the Norse teachings. Ths time around we find Amerind songs, an article on Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, and a Tlingit legend.

*****

RESIST NEWSLETTER #187 ($1 (?) from One Summer St., Somerville, MA 02144): What you're supposed to resist is illegitimate authority, pretty widely defined. This issue has articles on the Philippines revolution (the cover date is July/August) and the Big Mountain relocation effort. In addition to publishing Resist, Inc. hands out grants to various worthy causes; this issue mentions Southerners for Economic Justice, the Central American Information Center, and Center for Third World Organizing as recent recipients.

*****

REVIEWS OF THIS CHAPBOOK (39 cents postage from Mockersatz Xrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): No matter what I do, the poetry publishers keep sending me more stuff. At least I understand this one better than most chapbooks. Ken Sutherland has written an extended prose poem about the vicissitudes of being reviewed in the small press, in the form of a series of vignettes, each one a review from a small press reviewer. He's done an excellent job of capturing the different styles various reviewers use, and overall it's an amusing piece of self-referential literature. But why didn't he give himself more bad reviews so as to be more realistic?

*****

RIPORITY (SASE from Church of Christ, PO Box 57232, Washington, DC 20037): Noted mail-artist and lunatic Michael Voodoo is now venturing into the fanzine business, though I don't know how long he's going to stay. This issue is a collection of letters to various other mail artists, produced by Voodoo, or perhaps Carlo Pittore, or even the elusive Monty Cantsin. With all the players using the same name it's tough to tell if this is self-referential nonsense or networking nonsense, but even at that it's more accessible than Voodoo's past works.

*****

ROCK N' BISCUITS #6 (50¢ from Libby Gast, Rte. 3 Box 341, Trinity, NC 27370): A pfanzine that seeks to cover the length and breadth of the North Carolina music scene. RNB is growing rapidly as Libby finds out just how many bands are out there; even with the departure of her coeditor with this issue she does a fine job of covering them. This issue departs a bit from the music theme to discuss the perils of censorhip and the local battle to stop it, but then the demo tapes, live shows and club reviews are back in force. Includes schedules for half a dozen local clubs.

*****

THE RUNESTONE #57 ($9/yr from Asatru Free Assembly, PO Bxo 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): I don't know why that address always surprises me, as there's no reason why there shouldn't be a group of dedicated Odinists in mid-Texas. Asatru is the old name for the Norse religion which they uphold with pride, in a rapidly-growing group. They now have office space and are working on a cultural center and (ultimately) a bit of land for a retreat. THE RUNESTONE publishes bits of Norse lore, thoughts on applying it today, and news of gatherings and the like. They also have a number of books and tapes available -- ask for their recent catalog.

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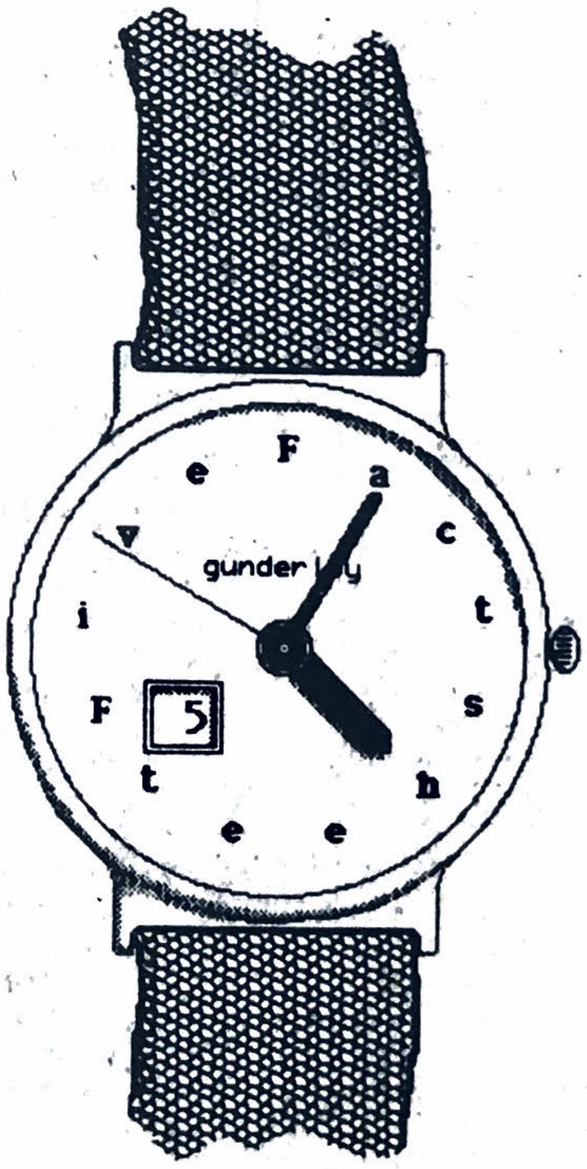

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #33 (70¢ from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage CIty, KS 66523): There are lots of people who write sf or horror or fantasy but don't know what to do with it. The number of prozines is small and the chance of getting a story accepted miniscule. Enter SN, a listing of small press outlets for these genres, some paying, some not. Besides extensive listings of who is buying what, there are reviews of various small press litmags and general ideas about selling stories.

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SCHISM #14 (SASE (?) from Janet Janet, 135 Cole St., San Francisco, CA 94117): This is probably the tersest little magazine in existence, even given the fact that it's minicomic size. This time: 9 words and a picture on drug testing. Janet puts out these social statements whenever she feels so compelled, but apparently the compulsion does not extend to long discussions.

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SCORE 7 ($15/yr from Crag Hill, 595 Merritt Ave. #2, Oakland, CA 94610): "Visual poetry and experimental texts in an uncluttered format". That is to say, there are both lyric and visual elements here. Not only the words (when present) but their placement on the page, typeface, and capitalization (among other things!) can be significant for the reading experience. Some of these poems have not even letters, only black and white lines trying desperately to partake of the magic of language. My favorite submission in this issue is Harry Polkinhorn's essay "The Visual Poem", which starts off with straightforward explanation and then gradually devolves through tortured academese, cut-up prose and pictures to a textual garble. A subscription to SCORE also includes various ephemera such as broadsides and postcards, as they are issues.

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SCRAP #1 ($1 (?) from Chris Winkler, 3645 N. marshall Way #3, Scottsdale, AZ 85251): A mail-art rag in the tradition of MALLIFE. Digest-sized and about 16 pages long, most of this consists of socially-aware collages, depicting tripping IBM employees, Reagan's brain, meat in all its guises, Star Wars, and other cheery topics. Chris is looking for submissions for the next issue, so send in your half-sized artwork now.

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SECONDS #1 ($1.75 from PO Box 2553, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009): This new tabloid says of itself "no gossip columns, scene reports, or 'groundbreaking' news on the music scene; only educated looks at the personalities at hand." There's actually two sets of well-known personalities here. The first is the writers; editor Steven Blush has assembled the likes of Dave Margulis, Jack Rabid, Ben Liemer and Josh Brickman to contribute to this strong first effort. The second, of course, is the bands involved: Metallica, Butthole Surfers, the Damned, Circle Jerks, Volcano Suns, Gutbank and more. These are no cursory chats but in-depth interviews; if people can cope with the lack of reviews they'll learn to love this format.

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S.E.T. FREE #18 (SASE (?) from S.E.T., PO Box 1124, ALbuquerque, NM 87103): The Society for the Eradication of Television is still going strong and winning converts. This newsletter functions as part propaganda organ, part support group, and will tell you why you should get rid of your TV as well as what to do without it. Their arguments are not as crazy as one might think; I myself have experimentally determined that it is possible to live without TV for long periods of time. Now, giving up fanzines, that would be crazy...

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SFANZINES

As I have explained before, these are zines written by members of the science fiction fan community, and may or may not have anything to do with SF. But they are a big part of my literary roots, and I generally enjoy them.

BSFAN 15 (The Usual (?) from Elaine Stiles, 3003 Ellerslie Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): A clubzine from Balto, and a pretty good one, though some of the features are pretty dull (Did I really want to read 7 pages of Eva Chalker Whitley talking about babysitting at cons? No.) Watch for Joe Mayhew's INTERVIEW WITH A MUNDANE, Charlie Ellis on making cheap SF movies, and various trip reports and the like.

CHEAP TRUTH 16 (SASE from Vincent Omniveritas, 809-C West 12th St., Austin, TX 78701): I don't know how this fits in with the Texas address, but this is the special British issue of CT, printed on funny-sized paper and mailed from England's green and pleasant shores. Vincent is not particularly green and pleasant himself; depending on your depth of view CT is a sfanzine that either heralds the coming new trends in SF or sneers at them. I enjoy this, as it means I don't have to read the stuff to sound knowledgeable at cocktail parties.

DE PROFUNDIS #175 ($5/yr from LASFS, Inc., 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601): The clubzine of the LA Science Fantasy Society, and thus of most interest if you know the folks in LASFS. A mainly-current listing of events and gossip, together with the minutes of the LASFS (recounting the Thursday-night lunacy) and the minutes of the LASFS Board (recounting the serious politics and finances).

THE DILLINGER RELIC 48 ($1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): DR is a perennial Hugo-loser, but it's not for lack of humor. Maybe fen want some sort of redeeming social value. Anyhow, this is the special travelog issue of DR, with Arthur discussing in his usual smartass fashion all the wonderful places he saw on his summer vacation. Of interest chiefly to those folks who enjoy sex and drugs and rock and roll and football.

FTA/PHOENIX Vol. 5 #1 (The Usual from SFAV, Box 1772, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y3, CANADA): The newly revived zine of the Science Fiction Association of Victoria. No one ever told them that sfanzines were not supposed to be full of fiction, so they put a batch in, along with some poetry. Being the more traditional type of fan, I most appreciated the presidential message from Paul Gerber, the summary of 1986 meetings, and the accounts of various trips taken by members. A sign of life from what has recently been a dead area on the map of fandom.

LINES OF OCCURENCE 12 ($1 or The Usual from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): LOO is where Arthur puts things that are not smartass enough to fit in DR (see above). In this case it's the report of the grand time he had at the recent World SF con, along with a smattering of reviews of this and that. Probably not of earthshaking importance unless you were there and suspect your name was mentioned.

THE MAPLE LEAF RAG 24/25 ($1 or The Usual from Garth Spencer, 1296 Richardson St., Victoria, BC V8V 3E1, CANADA): Garth has teamed up with Georges Giguere to get MLR back on track; tradezines should send two copies, with the second going to Georges at 9645-84 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6C 1E7, CANADA. MLR is the Canadian newszine; if either editor hears about a tidbit of news, be it convention, meeting, publication or whatnot it'll likely get in. Lots of pent-up locs in this one, some fearsomely abrasive. The content is almost entirely Canadian, but a few things sneak in from south of the border (such as the zine you're holding).

NEOLOGY Vol. 11 #4 ($1 or The Usual from

ESFACAS, Box 4071, Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8, CANADA): The clubzine of the Edmonton SF and Comic Art Society. Editor Kathleen Moore now has this well under control, and the quality is steadily going up. The best part of this issue is Boris Zavgorodny's Soviet SF News column; I hope these folks keep up the cultural exchanges. NEOLOGY also continues the tradition of excellent electro-stencilled art.

NOTES 5 ($1 or The Usual from Sam Helm, 495 W. 186th St., New York, NY 10033): Sam has put together one of the finest staffs in zinedom, with Nancy Lebovitz on bodywork, Jeff Grimshaw on sports and bizarreness, Andrea Chalfin-Antonoff on books, Anni Ackner on TV, and Ginnie Fleming on fanzines and production. All this adds up to a fine quality package, and Sam's own interest in sex, dope and the finer things in life keeps the whole quite interesting. Distinguished by a fine letter column and a horde of escapees from GOLDEN APA, this is one to watch for future honors.

NOVOID #3 (The Usual or $1 from Colin Hinz, 1118 College Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W2, CANADA): I fear that there is not much to distinguish this one other than it has two comics review columns, one by the editor and one not. There's also a piece by Somtow Sucharitkul, reprinted from another zine.

PYROTECHNICS #38 (The Usual or $3/4 issues from Gail & Jamie Hanrahan, PO Box 261687, San Diego, CA 92126-0998): This is nominally the newszine of the sfan techie group General Technics, but it is a tad more broad than that in that it exists to give print to any science-type news of interest to sfen. This issue is precious; it contains a massive report on the GT project to build a blimp from trash bags, inflate it with helium, and fly it at conventions, which is not as farfetched as it might sound. Also some analysis of why hard SF has fallen on hard times and a few reviews.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #60 ($2.50 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): This is more of a requiem than a review as SFR is ceasing publication with #61, due to Geis's health problems. That's a loss as this massive attempt to review every bit of SF worth reviewing has always been an ideal for a certain type of sfanzine. Those who have never seen a copy are urged to buy #61; those who have will be warmed to know that Geis plans to continue his perzine THE NAKED ID ($1 for sample, same address).

SIC BUISCUIT DISINTEGRAF 9 (40 p., loc or arranged trade -- I guess a few IRCs and a pleading letter might work -- from Dave Rowley and Joy Hibbert, 11 Rutland St., Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5JG, UK): The most enjoyable British zine of any genre that I get regularly. This seems to be the special Naughty Stuff issue, with Ashley Watkins discussing the reactions to his appearing at a con in drag and Caroline Mullan's article "Sex and blood and strange devices". There is also some discussion of SF, some poetry, and an extensive lettercol.

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER #17 ($1.50 from FACT, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766): The newszine of the Fandom Association of Central Texas. This is in fact (sorry, couldn't resist) full of news: TAFF and DUFF results, local Pro news, convention announcements, Dallas fan news, and batches of reviews. There are also a whole boatload of con reviews, as well as some more general thoughts on conventions and running them. Not vital, but an asset to the actifan.

TIME AND AGAIN #2 ($3, trade or letter from Dave Locke, 6828 Alpine Ave. #4, Cincinnati, OH 45236): This is a very traditional sfanzine. So traditional, in fact, that it will be of no interst to many of my readers, and Dave may well resent my reviewing it. But let me forge blindly ahead anyways. The tradition lies in two things: first, the fanwriting on all conceiveable subjects, most having nothing to do with SF, from Dave and guests Skel, Ed Cagle, Lon Atkins, Dean Grennell, and Al Curry; second, the lettercolumn continues the fabled TAFF fanfeud, banned in many more cowardly zines. I liked this, but I think the market is pretty limited.

WISHFUL THINKING FORUM 2 (from Chris Anderson, 77 Baronscourt Terrage, Edinburgh EH8 7EN, SCOTLAND): There's no ordering information here so you'll just have to trust in The Usual. Chris appears to be cast in the Angry Young Man role, railing against the injustices of the world and being told by his elders that he should stop making such a fuss. In fact were it not for the locs it might be difficult to identify this as a sfanzine. But anyone who listens to Billy Bragg can't be all bad.

WIZ #13 (from Richard Bergeron, PO Box 5989, San Juan, PR 00905): This single-sheeter is another entry in the long-lasting TAFF wars. Bergeron does his best to make his opponents look foolish and his friends look good, both by evidence and by innuendo. Even The Usual probably won't get you a copy of this unless you're already deeply involved in sfandom -- at least Bergeron has never shown any inclination to trade with FF.

ZETETIC 1 (from Joy Hibbert; see SIC BUISCUIT DISINTEGRAF for ordering info): Formerly the BUISCUIT RELIGIOUS SUPPLEMENT, this zine has taken on an intriguing life of its own. As you might guess from the title (though you should be wary of drawing conclusions about sfanzines from their titles) this is devoted to religion of all sorts. The articles here are more exploratory than evaluative and are written by participants rather than outside observers; Buddhism, the Society of Friends and Scientology come in for particular attention in this issue.

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SHAVERTRON Summer 1986 ($3.50 from Richard Toronto, PO Box 248, Vallejo, CA 94590): It's sort of appropriate that this end up just outside the sfanzine box; the SF community rejected the speculations of Richard Shaver quite violently some years ago. But the "Shaver Mystery" simply won't shrivel up and go away; moreover, its enthusiasts keep finding connections to other forbidden ideas in the strangest places. This issue is largely devoted to the career of George Hunt Williamson, a flying saucer buff who seems to have eerily echoed Shaver (to the point where the unwary might whisper "plagiarism") in his early writings. A meeting-point for another subcommunity of the underground press.

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SHOOT #13 (50¢ (?) from Carol Schneck, PO Box 6101, East Lansing, MI 48823-6101): Proof that students at Michigan State have more fun than those of us at RPI. SHOOT is a very personal fanzine, with hand-colored pages and drawings and little things pasted in to make it look less like all the other xeroxed mags. The contents are mainly poetry and little bits of art, plus some acerbic humor (a Kill This Punk contest). Most of the contents are almost self-consciously emotional, but fun nonetheless.

*****

SHRED-A-SLIME ($1.50 from 1646 Yakona, Baltimore, MD 21204): This pfanzine has hit its stride and now is wonderfully irreverent about everything, including music. There are bits of serious stuff, like the Eugene Chadbourne interview (fascinating guy), but there are also things like the "Kate Bush Dream Interview: Stained Paisley Underwear" that set an entirely different tone. Jim reprints without comment some Xtian anti-rock propaganda, reviews a pile of fanzines and records,

and generally has a good time.

*****

SIPAPU #33 ($4 from Noel Peattie, Route 1, Box 216, Winters, CA 95694): This one identifies itself as "for librarians, collectors, and others inerested in the alternative press", which on the whole makes their audience perhaps less marginalized but no less interesting than mine. Much of this issue is taken up by a deep and fascinating interview with Art Cuelho, a small-press publisher who resonates with the heartlands of America. There is also reportage of various librarian conventions and a batch of zine reviews. There isn't much overlap with FF reviews here -- much more of the "legitimate" small press appears in SIPAPU -- but there is enough that I suspect we've broadened their horizons a bit.

*****

SKULLS (15¢ & SASE from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): An 8-page minicomic consisting of skulls drawn by 8 different artists. There's not much more to say about this; might make a nice mini-pinup for the punk set.

*****

SLAMBOOK #I/II ($3 from See Hear, 59 E. 7 St., New York, NY 10003): "Did you have slambooks in Jr. High School?" it says on my copy. Well, no, but I get the idea. Someone divides up a page into a bunch of headings asking for short answers (like Name, Home Town, Favorite Band, Worst Movie, What do You Think About Madonna) and everyone who cares to answers the questions by writing across. Sort of a Gallup poll for the zine set, this features a number of well-known folks: Mykel Board, Gerard Cosloy, Fred Argenziano, Michael Weldon, Donny The Punk, Jim Testa and many more familiar names are in this set.

*****

THE SLAPDASH HACKERY FACTORY #1 (SASE from Carl Bettis, 4003 Harrison, Kansas City, MO 64110): This escapes the "Poetry" section of the reviews by including some art and short prose and not knowing what it wants to be when it grows up. Most of the contents are poetry, though; I liked Carl's own "Slitherso Kilsadek", sort of a dream-time rant from a cornered individual and Patricia Morris's story "Playtime", a Revisionist creation myth, the best. Submissions are encouraged for the next issue, perhaps on the theme of "What is Poetry?"

*****

SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION #7 ($2 from C&T Graphics, 45 Wilcox St., Rochester, NY 14607): Devoted entirely to independent and small press comics, this one makes FF's comics coverage look like the pathetic joke that it is. There are 50 pages of reduced print in this issue, with reviews of more unknown comics than I could have imagined. If you are at all interested in the subject of comics, get this at once. Also includes some advice on getting your own publications distributed, a report on the Chicago Comic con, and a long interview with Jay Kennedy, author of a price guide to underground and small press comics. Awesome.

*****

SOLIDARITY Vol. IV #2 ($1 (?) from Don Irish, 795 Holton St., St. Paul, MN 55104): This is the newsletter of CISLANM/FOR. Pay attention: that's Committee In Solidarity with Latin American Nonviolent Movements and the Task Force on Latin America of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. In other words, this is put out by North Americans who are trying to help out the Latin Americans with their current struggles. There are plenty of testimonials here to the fact that nonviolence can work; the most moving story concerns a group attempting to cross from Nicaragua into Honduras who ended up confronting the Honduran military.

*****

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Vol. XV #4 ($5/yr from John Harllee, Rt. 2 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): After a period of retrenchment SLM is making a comeback, with a couple of new staffers helping to compensate for John's failing eyesight. SLM is for the most part still a compendium of news and reviews from all over that portray the government in a silly light and contribute to the day when the Libertarians will take over. There are also occasional articles seeing their first light here, notable Robert Brakeman's series on Libertarian events in real life.

*****

THE SOUTH SOUND ALLIANCE June 1986 ($15/yr from PO Box 14742, Portland, OR 97214): A monthly tabloid from the Oregon Coalition of Alternative Human Services. As with many journals from this area, there is a strong environmentalist component here, but with a variety of groups sponsoring parts of the publication there are other concerns as well. The advantage of coalition publishing is obvious in the depth of coverage here; the Hanford nuclear reservation, bioregionalism, ethical investing and the Portland Greens are all looked at in this issue. Contains an extensive calendar of local events.

*****

SPA-MAN #3 (75¢ from Al Greenier, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, ct 06010): This is a superhero minicomic featuring a defender for the 80's. "Every city needs a hero, a defender. Instead, your town has...Spa-Man!" When not lounging in his spa (what did you expect, a jacuzzi?), this guy is out doing the usual righting of wrongs and hobnobbing with other superheroes. In this issue, he persuades Intenseman to abandon a life of dissolute gambling, and then wins the lottery.

*****

SPARE CHANGE #12 ($1.50 (?) from Kerry Thornley, 2981 Lookout, Atlanta, GA 30305): More ravings from America's favorite bridge-sleeping Discordian. This issue contains SubGenial recruiting posters, more about Fred the Publician, the Demon in charge of dress codes, the I Ching, anarchist stickers, the Pepsi ID card, and of course lots of bizarre collages. Like getting a maintenance dose of the PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA.

*****

SPARE TIME MONEY MAKING OPPORTUNITIES Oct. 1986 (50¢ from Kipen Publishing, 5810 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219): Perhaps you'd like to sell fake cigarettes for smokers trying to kick the habit? Or maybe making your own bumper stickers is more attractive. Vinyl repair? Bronzing baby shoes? Preparing taxes? Upholstery? It's all here, with plenty of people willing to sell you the simple instructions so they can make money in their spare time.

*****

SPEW AND REVIEW #19 (25¢ & SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109-4441): The single-sheeter with something to offend everyone, the zine that asks the question "Mommy, why is there fallout on my hamburger?" This issue: Victoria Principal's tits, the new Baby Astronauts album, and the winners of the anti-authoritarian slogan contest.

*****

SPOOKY PAWS #6 (50¢ & a stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This cat and art fanzine includes a simply disgusting split kitty shot on page 3. What is the world coming to? Shane Williams and the prison cats show up in the centerfold, and the zine ends up with an interview with the Amazing Mighty Cat and some local cat gossip.

*****

STARDUST SALAMANDER #1 ($2.50 from Temple Stardust, PO Box 341383, Memphis, TN 38184): A new neo-Pagan tabloid that's setting its sights on doing as much networking as possible. This first issue contains sort of survey articles on a variety of topics: ritual, runes, shamanism and more. There are also reports on past and forthcoming pagan festivals and meetings.

*****

STORM WARNING #1 ($6/yr from VVAW(AI), 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): This is the new journal of the Seattle chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Anti-Imperialist). Although it does contain a certain amount of rhetoric about the jackboot of imperialism and the mushroom clouded future, it also has a fair amount of outreach to the draft-age youth of today who are once again in danger of thinking of war as glamorous fun. It's hard to tell what sort of revolutionaries these guys are, but note they do endorse NBAU.

*****

STREET MAGAZINE Vol. 1 #4 ($10/yr from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02238): These guys simply don't live up to their own hype: "there is no other journal that attempts to publish the vital, raw, honest and angry material that we do." Yeah, right, like an interview with Alen Ginsburg and a ride on the subways with the Guardian Angels. Sorry, guys, but the small press world is wider than you dream of. They do have entries in their directory for street shelters and the like which is more than the Boston PHOENIX does these days.

*****

STREETS AHEAD #2 ($4/4 issues from 4664 Ruth Way, Union City, CA 94587): A new pfanzine from somewhere along the Central Coast or thereabouts. This issue has an interview with Anatol Sucher from Warpt West, a mail interview with Boss Hossphotos of Cancerous Growth and some poetry. Marred by unsteady reproduction, the zine is ultimately saved by snippets of a Dead Milkmen interview.

*****

STRIDER Oct. 1986 ($12/yr from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): I think Strider has correctly evaluated the current status of the Libertarian philosophy. Rather than work for election he works for publicity and for stirring people up, both in this journal and in his dealings with the real world. This issue reports on his quest to get a real estate license to do business on the moon and comments about some current California politics, including à cardroom in hot water for allowing people to play cards without gambling.

*****

SUBURBAN MUCKRAKER #7 ($1 from 8814 Appleseed Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45249): Long overdue but not suffering too badly for all that (after all, how current do band interviews have to be?) this pfanzine spices up the music with a few screwball short stories. Bands this time around: Yard Trauma, Green River. Though the reviews are dated and printed in microfiche form, they're also honest (read: nasty) enough to remain entertaining.

*****

SUBURBAN VOICE #20 ($1.50 from Al Quint, 56 Lewis Rd., Swampscott, MA 01907): This pfanzine actually deigns to include an article on major record labels (not that it portrays them in a favorable light or anything like that). Probably the bands here wouldn't be caught dead on a major: Meatmen, Agnostic Front, Ed Gein's Car, Justice League, Executioner. The reviews are nicely punctuated by beautiful and well-printed photographs. Al sure gets to a hell of a lot of live shows and writes about them all.

*****

SUNDRIED FISH #1 (SASE (?) from Kristen Guzman, 3392 Rossmoor Way, Los Alamitos, CA 90720): I have a soft spot in my head for dittoed zines, so this one gets more consideration from me than the average litmag. Heavy on the poetry but illustrated and soliciting stories and comments for the next issue, the avowed purpose here is "to open minds up to ideas besides BMWs, make-up, vacations in Palm Springs". Kathy's "Bulldoze the Forest" is a lament for the vanishing of nature; James Morrison's "Sounds of the Fire" is an interesting bit of hallucinatory imagery, but I think Steven Vames' doggerel "Ode to the Merdog" is the best thing here.

*****

THE SWEET RIDE #2 (50¢ from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): This is a zine of rock and roll marginalia, from Bill Haley and the Comets to Husker Du. Not so much reviews as gossip and speculation, it's marred by the overinked microprint. The parts I struggled through were worth it, but even poverty doesn't justify subjecting your readers to this sort of thing. Money seems to be the underlying theme of this issue: how to get it, what to do with it, how to live without it.

*****

SYNTHESIS #23 ($3.75/5 issues from LED, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733): The League for Ecological Democracy is still putting out a fine zine with the emphasis on "deep ecology" (as opposed to the shallow touchie-feelie ecology that first popularized the concept in this country). This issue has a very interesting article on the British Columbia Greens and some of the continuing debate among the various groups trying to bill themselves as the nucleus of the Green movement in this country. There is also a first step towards a synthesis of green and red values.

*****

THE TERRITORIAL HERALD Vol. VI #3 (75¢ from Royal Post 200-0203, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): This is the quarterly newsletter of the Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine, a household kingdom which has declared its independence from the US government and everything else. It exists mostly to spread news of interest to the FTEC and allied households, who are trying to reassert the concept of individual sovereignty.

*****

TFP NEWSLETTER #19 (Om request from PO Box 121, Pleasantville, NY 10570: A slickly-produced conservative newsletter. TFP stands for "Tradition, Family, Property" and that pretty much captures their viewpoint. Inside we find a story on the much-discussed rise of the campus Right, a congratulatory telegram to President Reagan on the occasion of his having Libya bombed, affirmations of the necessity of Catholic education, and "The Family: Target of Socialist Hatred".

*****

THIRD RAIL UPDATE (SASE from PO Box 472084, Tulsa, OK 74147): Dan puts this one-sheeter out between real issues of his fanzine, just to let people know he's still alive and keep his name in the review columns. Hmmm, maybe I should try that. Anyhow, this has a quickie update on the various scenes around Oklahoma (mostly dead), live show and record reviews, and some general political nattering. Nice Conrad cartoon on drug testing which I hadn't seen before (Reagan holding beaker, captioned "Just say 'No'").

*****

THE THOUGHT Vol. 6 #9 ($1 from The Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): "Dedicated To The Rebirth Of Academic Philosophy", this monthly owes a great debt to the ideas of Ayn Rand. In particular, it seems that philosophy brooks no disagreement among rational humans. As a matter of history I find this to be untrue, but at least editor Ron Tobin and company are trying to think, and that's a worthwhile cause. I do wish they wouldn't use phrases like "impacted negatively"; that is hardly the way to distinguish oneself from the government's bureaucrats. Recommended for Randroids and fellow travelers.

*****

THREADBARE RAGAZINE ($1 from PO Box 20815, Seattle, WA 98102): It seems that SubGenial zines are on the upswing again, no doubt propelled by dark and mysterious forces beyond the comprehension of even the Federal Reserve. This one isn't

spectacular, but it isn't bad either (with the notable exception of one self-proclaimed Discordian arguing in favor of the State!). The Discordian content is particularly high for a SubG publication, which probably means the Muthah Church has not yet disciplined these guys. Nice clippings on X-shaped UFOs and other signs of the End Times.

*****

THUNDERBOW #104 (60¢ from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): The writings in T-BOW seem to be growing increasingly apocalyptic of late as the various means of divination open to the Church continue to project dark days ahead in a "cleansing of the earth plane". The CSA has gathered together a great many traditions under one roof, and each issue is full of very short and basic articles dealing with such subjects as the I Ching, runes, astrology, shamanism, and so on. Also contains ultra-condensed news of interest to the futurist thinker.

*****

TIME WORM #8 ($1 (?) from 37 East Hudson St., Dayton, OH 45405): Sean opens this issue with some reactions to the last FF review of TW. I appreciate this -- he makes the very good point that readers often don't know what to make of a new mag, a difficulty that plagues me. I still can't claim to understand "The Magazine for Misfits" but now I appreciate it more. TW is a sort of litmag, printing poeams and stories and drawings and whatnot. I enjoyed Sean's "Zentoons" in this issue, as well as the section devoted to an appreciation of the American diner and Dag Nabbit's thoughts on the family farm -- I think my overrationalized side is showing. Submissions for future issues are invited.

*****

TOM GILL PREDICTS Vol. IX #1 (SASE from TGP International, 2477 Sycamore Lane #E-6, Davis, CA 95616-5571): Actually, Tom does a good deal more than predict. He also explains, amuses and baffles in this single-sheeter, issued 20 times a year. This issue consists of a list "How You Can Tell When It's Going To Be A Rotten Day" ("Your boss tells you not to take off your coat", and so on); past issues have discussed strange inventions, triboluminescence of Life Savers, earthworm juice, and journalese, among other manifestations of contemporary society. Illuminatingly entertaining.

*****

TOPICAL TIME Vol. 37 #4 ($2.75 from ATA, PO Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907): I don't often get stamp-collecting journals for FF, but in this case the editor is Fred Foldvary, publisher of LIBERTARIAN DIGEST. This is the journal of the American Topical Association, a group devoted to collecting stamps grouped around various topics. In this issue, for example, there are articles discussing "Disney on Stamps", Nobel prize winners on stamps, and stamps depicting Texas, among others. There are also checklists of topical new issues (from around the world), guides to stamp exhibitions, an extensive Q&A column, and plenty of ads. If you collect stamps on any topic, you can probably find a kindred soul here.

*****

TRANET #43 ($30/yr from PO Box 467, Rangeley, ME 04970): This is a "quarterly newsletter-directory of, by and for people who are participating in transformation" of their own lives and the planet. It is focused around appropriate & alternative technologies, but ranges afield in search of ideas for the future from any grassroots venue. Every issue includes a seperate pull-out directory concentrating on one particular theme or area; this time it's a guide to "Alternatives Down Under". A great way to find out who is doing what to change things, as opposed to those folks only interested in publicity or money. Part of your subscription money pays for sending a copy to the Third World, to encourage communication and exchange of ideas.

*****

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 12 #2 ($10/yr from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, SWITZERLAND): This is an international journal (written in English) devoted to trying to help straighten out the mess that the world is in. The initiatives proposed range from broad disarmament proposals within the UN framework down to grassroots cassette exchange (with an excellent introductory article written by Casette Mythos's Robin James). Willing to accept that men are good and that they try to create good institutions, TP goes further to argue for good works and action now, rather than theory and promises. If nothing else, TP serves to indicate the variety of alternatives available even withint he framework of the nation-state for the changing of scoeity.

*****

TREATY OAK TIMES Vol. IV #1 ($15/6 issues from 7205 Coronado Circle, Austin, TX 78752): This is the newsletter of Lone Star Green, a bioregional Green group. Young and growing fast, this project is spreading the word about a new way of life, which involves localism and decentralization as key values. "If it isn't local, you probably don't need it" is a tad too radical for this computerized editor, but the thought is worth pursuing. There are some interesting thoughts here on the links between our troubles and the economic and political systems in place in America.

*****

TWIN CITY MEN'S CENTER NEWS Vol. 10 #2 ($2 from The Men's Center, 3255 S. Hennepin #45, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A publication from a group of "Twin Cities men who are freeing, growing, and healing", which is to say, they're probably proud if they eat quiche. TMC runs support groups for men, of whatever sexual persuasion or problem; provides workshops on important issues ranging from changing jobs to dealing with guilt and shame; and generally attempts to fill some of the needs of men who are trying to be more than stereotypes. A nice attempt to tackle some very tough problems.

*****

TWISTED IMAGE #8 ($2 from Ace Backwords, 1630 University Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703): Ace has got his finger on the pulse of the counterculture while his other hand makes a grab (so far unsuccessful) for its wallet. In this issue he interviews Henry Rollins on writing (Rollins sounds like less of a jerk than usual, possibly because this was a mail interview), Jack Stevenson on PANDEMONIUM, and Bill Griffith on Zippy the Pinhead. John Crawford speaks out on the state of Punk, while the staff review a stack of hot records from the Partridge Family, Grand Funk Railroad, Barry Manilow and other bands you love to hate. The underground is alive and well and invading Ace's mailbox.

*****

TYPHUS NEWS Vol. I #1 (SASE (?) from J. Coxe, 1150 Grand Ave. Apt. A, San Diego, CA 92109): Most of this is a pfanzine devoted to interviewing and plugging the band JC and their album "Do It, Egyptian". Now, with the "Dear Abby" column in this zine being written by Abigail Van Buren and Abby Hoffman, and the classified ads being out of National Lampoon by way of Monty Python, you might suspect the existence of any band that quotes Spinal Tap. That's your privilege. If you like their album anyhow and think FF ought to review it, then let me know.

*****

THE UNICORN Autumn 1986 ($1 from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A pagan publication from a group that appears to be fairly active in the Twin Cities. This issue contains some ideas on fasting, lots of pretty male god art from Don Lewis, and a batch of readers' letters, as well as the more usual herbal notes. The Rowan Tree also has a new book out, THE HOLY BOOKS OF THE DEVAS,

readers in something approaching apa form but published as a regular zine, each issue is filled with chatty letters and hints on how to get along simply and rurally. This issue there is extended discussion of outhouses, from an account of how the army coped in Vietnam (mix the feces with diesel and burn it) to plans for building a septic tank out of two 55-gallon drums. Also recipes, bird feeder plans, gardening hints and lots more. Now that I have land to plant (a miniscule portion, but better than nothing) I plan on rereading all of my back issues.

*****

THE LONE STAR SOCIALIST Vol. 1 #1 ($5/yr from Socialist Party, PO Box 262722, Houston, TX 77207-2722): Though labeled the "Voice of hte Socialist Party of Texas", there doesn't seem to be any hard-sell for socialism or even organized labor here, with the exception of the article on the continuing Hormel/P-9 strike. Instead, most of the articles concentrate on things happening in Central America, at Big Mountain, or elsewhere and present a fairly standard leftist interpretation of events. There is one fascinating rundown of all the lies put out by the Reagan administration in their five-year search for money to invade Nicaragua.

*****

LOTTERY PLAYER'S MAGAZINE Vol. 6 #11 ($2.50 from PO Box 2553, Boulder, CO 80321): This is hard to believe, but here's a 100-page digest full of articles about lotteries and, more amazingly, "winning systems" for playing them. The magazine gives some of these "systems" away, but many others are advertised -- $10 for your own Lucky Numbers, that sort of thing. Human gullibility continues to amaze me.

*****

LOVESEAT #4 (25¢ from Alex Brown, 211-53rd, Des Moines, IA 50312): This is a quick and dirty issue of this pfanzine, put out so folks would know Al was still alive and kicking even if he didn't have time to do a full-scale issue. That's a great idea, and I wish some of the more irregular publishers out there would pick up on it. Anyhow, this ish serves as sort of a rundown on the state of the DM punk scene (lousy). Back issues are still available for $1; #3 has interviews with Verbal Assault and Face First and a batch of live show reviews.

*****

LOWLIFE 9 ($1.50 from Glen Thrasher, 1095 Blue Ridge Ave. #2, Atlanta, GA 30306): Well, let's get the normal part out of the way first: there are six pages of music reviews tucked away in the back. That accounts for about 10% of the stuff here, the other 90% being stories, story fragments, drawings and poems with no clear connection other than, for the most part, a fascination for mutilation, blood, dismemberment, death and embarassment. Plenty of crude but graphic drawings featuring self-mutiliation and masturbation rub shoulders with stories full of vampires and sex slaves, serial killers and office workers. Sort of like THE CLOSEST PENGUINS done by the Hell's Angels.

*****

LUNAR WAY Vol. 6 #1 ($1 (?) from PO Box 16251, Baltimore, MD 21210): This is the "networking newsletter for the Earth Song Community". Although they don't exactly spell things out for the newcomer, ESC appears to be a fairly loose association of pagan groups in the Balto-DC area, with a formal Board of Trustees and set of bylaws and all. What their prupose is, other than getting members of the Craft together, I can't tell. Anyhow, this reads like a sort of bulletin board, announcing meetings and events and reporting on past ceremonies and the like. Also a few book reviews and some poetry.

*****

LUNO (SASE for info or $1 for sample from Gene Lehman, 31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009): That stands for Learning Unlimited Network of Oregon, Gene's latest project. He's not entirely sure where it's headed but based on his past experiences with the English language it's certain to have fun getting there. The heart of LUNO is Gene's own Phonetic Spelling Labs, a series of ideas on how best to teach spelling and grammar, based on 28 years of experience including much struggle with the standard methods. This stuff is fun to read and puzzle out even if you're well out of school, and it would have beat the hell out of the textbooks I had when I was learning the same things.

*****

MAGIC BULLET Vol. 2 #5 (39¢ SASE from A.C. Dickinson, 169 W. Huntington St., Philadelphia, PA 19133): I'm sorry to say that I found this one visually attractive but textually incomprehensible. The editorial policy of this near-litmag is to keep thngs short so as to keep the reader from getting bored, but the result seems to be such a heavy reliance on symbolism and indirection that the point of the story is completely lost. Burnell Yow!'s "For Lewis Carroll surrealist in nonsense" poem was somewhat satisfying, but only because I didn't expect anything with Carroll's name attached to make sense. Still, if you have a less linear mind than I, you may make something of all this, and the price is certainly good for something with such nifty two-color graphics.

*****

THE MALE CHAUVINIST NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #2 ($6.66/yr from TLC International, PO Box 261, Staten Island, NY 10302): This used to be published in Southern California but has now been added to the AMERICAN FORUM empire of publications. Unfortunately the move seems to have replaced the previous thoughtful but outrageous ranting with just another batch of mildly-pornographic swinger's club stuff. Too bad. If this changes back into an outlet for male chauvinism I'll let you know.

*****

MANALIVE Vol. III #11 ($9/yr from PO Box 19692, St. Paul, MN 55119): Though this announces itself as the newsletter of the Minnesota Men's Council, its purpose seems a bit murky to me. This may be because it reports on council activities without giving a rationale for them. Thus I don't know if the account of the drumming and dancing at the previous meeting represents all or a part of the action, and whether there is some explicitly pagan reference here or just an attempt to let oneself go. Besides cryptic news of past and coming events, they also publish writing by men, both poetry and prose. "A Newsletter for Men's Connection to the Male COmmunity", this seems to be for those of us who are more introspective than the standard male stereotype would allow.

*****

MANZINE (25¢ from Function Industries Press, PO Box 9915, Seattle, WA 98109): This small (half the size of the ordinary minicomic) zine bills itself as a "review of contemporary culture" and the title page asks the question "Is it art, or is it just stupid?" Some of both, I think. Due to their limited space, the staff at MANZINE are forced to pick and choose bits of contemporary culture to present, and so a book review without details hobnobs with thoughts on the various kinds of fallout (political, economic, etc.) from Chernobyl. Were there 30 pages of this, it would be thought-provoking. In this size, it is merely thought-encouraging.

*****

MAYHEM KOMIX #2 ($1 & SASE from Bob McGlynn, 528 Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215): This is a three-sheet collection of collages and words aiming to address a serious problem on the Left while having a good time. The problem in this issue is the authoritarian behaviour of the marshals at various demonstrations -- certain sectors of the left believe that responsible demos are no fun, and worse

yet, that they're just a tool of the ruling class. Draw your own conclusions. Also still available is MK #1, featuring the Little Rascals discussing philosophy.

*****

MESSAGE POST #22 ($1 from PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): Now billing itself as the "Portable Dwelling Info-letter", MP continues to provide useful information for those wishing to live outside of houses. Everything from tent-camping to tipis to mobile homes shows up in these pages, along with ideas on how to keep warm, cook without much energy, find a good site, select storage batteries, find buckets to store things in, and much more. Through their associated Light Living Library, the MP folks keep a great many past articles in print at prices from a dime on up. This is a good issue to get acquainted with, as it includes the index for the other 1986 issues to give you a flavor of the areas they cover.

*****

META-SCOOP Vol. 3 #9/10 ($10/yr from 1004 Live Oak #101, Arlington, TX 76012): MS is sort of a generalized metaphysical and spiritual publication, with bits and pieces of all sorts of teachings finding their way in. The editors, Barb Sowell and Deb Armstrong, keep it light and playful, with this issue including some excerpts from Mark Twain's LETTERS FROM EARTH and a curious discussion of out of body experiences (OBEs). There are also some short but serious discussions, like the one on Pythagoreanism, and notes on upcoming seminars and events in their area.

*****

THE MIND BLASTER #1 ($5/yr (?) from The Remote Control Institute, Buck Rt., Box 111, Hinton, WV 25951): A new SubGenial publication that proves that the Church has not yet been completely overrun by the "Bobbies". There's a huge contact list of crazy people, a warning about the dangers of Spontaneous Human Combustion, news suppressed by the Conspiracy, and much more. These folks also put out posters, contact cards and even small religious tracts, perfect for leaving carelessly around bus stops. It's not the STARK FIST, but until that legendary Tabloid of the Gods reappears, this will be the next best thing.

*****

THE MIND SCIENCE JOURNAL Vol. 1 #5/6 ($1 (?) from PO Box 1302, Mill Valley, CA 94941): The masthead announces "Joining People Together in Awareness for the New Age" and there is a great deal of odd stuff inside. UFOs, speculations on whether the missing children have been kidnapped by the ETs, notes on Candida Albicans, classifieds listing many New Age Groups, thoughts on Mary Magdalene as the beloved disciple of Christ, and lots more. The production quality isn't real high, but the energy level certainly is, and even if 90% of the stuff here is crap, the editors are consciously seeking to expand their horizons. Better to wade through a lot than to rule out interesting stuff, I think.

*****

MIND THEATRE 7 ($2.50 from PO Box 1408, Stn. A, London, ONT N6A 5M2 CANADA): A fun collection of comix and miscellaneous artistic stuff put out by a collective that appears to contain all sorts of unsavory subversives. My favorite strip is the continuing "The Way of T.A.O.", by Lenn Rant, chronicling the adventures of the Transnational Activist Organization, a high-tech group of future revolutionaries. Also of note are Chaz's "Hailstones", full-page drawings of a woman under pressure, and Finn Harvor's sketches of everyday life on the subway.

*****

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 8 #133 ($1 from Irene Hamlen Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3893): A biweekly newletter that uses biorhythm character and compatability analysis to investigate events and personalities in the news. In this issue Irene compares Abe Lincoln and Jerry Falwell (the numbers say they're quite similar), contrasts Madonna and Marilyn Monroe (they're not alike at all), and profiles Karen Silkwood. She also offers personal analyses and compatability ratings.

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MOCKreviewZ #5 (50¢ from Ken "Zen" Sutherland, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): Apparently tired of being forever on the receiving end of critiques for his own chapbooks and publications, Ken has started returning fire to the rest of the small press. Actually, he and his reviewers stick to a fairly narrow segment of that press, mainly poetry and alternative art magazines -- which means that even in these 8 pages you'll find a lot of obscure literary stuff that's not listed in FF. Ken's wry humor and sense of the field make these reviews winning ones; you're not likely to send for a lot of trash based on his word. Also in this issue: stupid things people have said about their policies in the latest DUSTBOOKS guide to Poetry Publishers.

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MONGOLOID: 50¢ & SASE from Rudy Felt, PO Box 1166, Brookline, MA 02146): A fairly small pfanzine with a confusing personality. After a page of RUdy's short poems (usually around four lines and disgusting), there is a review of a Laurie Anderson concert. Then come a couple of pages of punk photos and finally a review of the new Ramones album. This boy has confused tastes or something.

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THE MONITOR Vol. 1 #3 ($15/yr from Center for Democratic Renewal, PO Box 10500, Atlanta, GA 30310): The CDR is an apparently new group that is monitoring the activities on the Far Right. This is not the New Right of Jerry Falwell and Pat ROBertson, but the lunatic fringe of Klansmen, neo-Nazis, and the Posse Comitatus. This issue leads off with an article on Nazi skinheads and the problems they cause nationwide (though most of the examples given are from Atlanta). There are also stories on Lyndon LaRouche and Tom Metzger, as well as some brief news items.

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THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #46 (2 stamps or 50¢ from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): Imagine, if you can, 8 pages of stuff designed to make your head hurt if you try to figure them out and your ribs hurt (from laughing) if you don't. OK, that's TM...B. Contents vary wildly from issue to issue, but there's always some comics from Denver Tucson, including the Bone Family, and a variety of short humorous writings. In this issue TS presents a version of the old hanged man paradox and anorexics come in for some mixed press. For $4 (cash/stamps) from the same address you can get the 1987 Calendar For Organized Psychotics.

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MOSCOW TRUST GROUP UPDATE #6 ($1 & SASE from Bob McGlynn, 528 Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215): A short chronicle of the continuing problems of the Moscow Trust Group, an independent (not government sponsored) network of peace activists in the USSR. Because of their tendency towards free speech, many members have ended up in labor camps, prisons, and mental hospitals. For those wishing to explore the issue further, Bob has two other pamphlets available for a buck each which discuss the independent peace movements east of the Irson Curtain in some detail. ask for BLOWING AWAY THE BORDERS and QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE GRASS ROOTS PEACE MOVEMENTS for a buck each. It's incredible that the western peace movements are for the most part ignoring these people, who are risking much more than disorderly conduct charges at their demonstrations.

Penned In

by Shane Williams

What is the relationship between drugs and sex...and rock and roll? Forget the origins of the popular saying that links the three, I'm not gonna worry about who said it first because I'm here to be just a little bit more serious than mere etymology. What I'm concerned about is whether people associated with rock and roll are going to stand up to the vendetta that politicians are now espousing on porn, sexual freedom, and drug use. The amoutn of people willing to link music with their pet causes of the liberal or leftist variety are many. Anti-apartheid, food for Africa, no more nukes -- people in show business are up to their vocal cords and picking fingers in efforts to be seen as great humanitarians. But who is going to stand up and demand our rights to use drugs or view porn?

Kudos do go to those rockers who debated the panel interrogating them after the senators' wives started a furor over rock lyrics -- but who is going to go that extra mile to hold a benefit concert or give an interview for people being imprisoned for unreasonable lengths of time for drug use or sales, or for porn producers fighting laws against pimping or laws against corrupting minors when all they are trying to do is provide materials to enhance pleasure?

I see a great complacency in today's hip music world, even worse, a great conservativism. To give just a few examples (without actually naming names): when the Rock Against Racism concerts are sponsored by the Yippies they usually have a smokein and a Legalize Marijuana day of music to follow up. Some of the remnants of D.C.'s straight-edge punks went out of their way to announce on stage that they did not support that aspect of the gathering.

An editor of one of America's best fanzines works for the U.S. Probation office, in the course of her duties she supervises urine testing and types up arrest warrants for parole violators. She sees no contradictions between this and supporting punk rock and other alternative music, yet I bet she wouldn't work for a company owned and operated by or for South Africa.

Another correspondent of mine is waiting to take the bar exam. He also used to edit a leading zine. He actually gave some credibility to the arrests and harassment of the individulas who made Traci Lords a porn star. You see, she had a phony ID and they thought she was over 18, but it turns out she was only 16 when she was copulating on camera, and a new federal law protecting minors raised the age from 16 to 18 so now the feds can prosecute these producers even if they can prove they didn't know her age. Not only that, but my correspondent admitted he would consider turning me in if he knew I was selling drugs to minors.

We are talking about people with huge punk rock album collections who love it enough to do their own zines having ideas that are conservative enough to scare the shit out of me. Dozens of friends have admonished me not to use drugs when I get out of jail, so excuse me for being mildly nostalgic for the days when rock'n'roll was virtually synonymous with being a doper. Even in its earliest incarnations as rhythm & blues and hillbilly music rock was associated with sex and getting drunk...not with altruistic attempts to meddle in politics. But here is the biggest political issue of all, the one that can really restrict the lifestyle of American citizens -- and no one seems to care, or if they do care they seem to favor the wave of sexual repression and the oppression of substance users and sellers.

I am for the total legalization of all drugs, all sex acts between consenting adults, and all pornography that depicts consenting adults. Furthermore I believe that adulthood, for legal purposes, should begin at puberty, and that teenagers have just as much right to get high and fuck as everyone else -- after all, in a majority of cultures known to anthropologists puberty coincides with the rites of initiation into adulthood.

Those are the issues that rock and rollers from stars to wanna-bes should be publicizing. These are the issues that affect their fans.

A minor update on Black Flag's singer, Henry Rollins aka Hank Garfield. In a prior PENNED IN I noted my delight with the columns he'd written for SPIN -- well, in a recent interview he said he wouldn't be doing any more of them because he was angry with SPIN for its articles denigrating an old black blues musician for dressing like a pimp. I forget which old black blues cat was spotlighted, but I too thought the article was written from a stupid point of view. But I think it is an absurd reason to deny us more of Rollins' wit in that form, a form I prefer to angst-ridden spoken word but which is still secondary to angst-ridden vocalizing for the Flag.

Speaking of old black blues cats, how about the black dudes who were the early rock and rollers? Not Chuck Berry and Little Richard, but the R&B artists like Big Joe Turner and Wynonie Harris and Roy Brown. Everybody reading this ought to read Nick Tosche's book THE UNSUNG HEROES OF ROCK AND ROLL (where else can you read about someone being called a "fat fuck" in reverential tones?). And then after you read about the blacks and hillbillies who did it first you ought to tune into your local college radio stations and find out when the specialty programs are on and pick up on these sounds. If you can't find a show that plays the early raucous rock then get on the case of the jazz programmers who obviously know their 40's and 50's music and who would probably be happy to provide a forum for R&B and New Orleans honky tonk and jumpin' jive and all the stuff that made rock and roll possible. I am fortunate in being able to pick up the SATURDAY NIGHT FISH FRY on KCOR, a Kansas City public radio college station. Support rock and roll in all its most potent forms.

Now everyone knows I'm a cynical guy fond of bad-mouthing altruism. I'm not "into unity", but I do believe in supporting musci and helping out those who do support music. Chris at Bad Compilation Tapes is now $6000 in debt after funding the Indigesti/Cheetah Chrome Motherfuckers U.S. tour (those are two Italian bands). So until he recoups some of his losses (he was already $4000 in debt before this last tour) he will have to cut back on his tape trading and will have to postpone any thoughts of helping to arrange a future thrash tour for foreign bands. Anyone familiar with his label knows he has made lots of good thrash from all over the world available on tapes, and now vinyl, in this country. While not doctrinaire about it Chris is living proof that some type of unity, or at least unifying forces within an individual, exists. He is looking for bands, in a spirit of voluntaryism, who will do benefit concerts for his label, donating half of the profits to him. He has had good luck before with voluntary aid, he got $1200 in loans to help put out the first BCT vinyl. But I tend to

think that only the bands that have tunes appearing on his tapes are likely to do a benefit for him. I wish him luck though, but what I want to do is urge everyone to buy his tapes and the album now. Send him a few stamps or a buck for the latest BCT catalog (Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116) and pick up some of these 60 minute jobs jampacked with thrash from everywhere. Do it now and maybe you'll catch him before he raises his prices, which I suggested might be a good idea. Right now it's still less than $5 apiece.

Finally, I wanted to tell you all that the new issue of SPORADIC DROOLINGS is due out any day now, in fact it should be out by the time you read this. So don't wait for the review in the next FF to get it and read all the stuff I wrote in it along with the good stuff by others. ($1 from PO Box 1092, Kearny, NJ 07032). Which brings us to the

ZINE REVIEWS

*THE BIG TAKEOVER (40¢ from 249 Eldridge St. #14, New York, NY 10002): One man's vision and massive record collection give us this essential document -- while not the sparkling wit of some east coast music fanatics, Jack is more likely to get all the issues of the moment on a plate for everyone to upchuck to -- this issue has reprints an exchange out of ROCKPRINT that started over a major label's alternative college division complaining about Jack's depiction of their participation at the New Music Seminar. Interesting reading but of course we all prefer the scads of gig and record reviews and Jack knows his stuff.

*B-SIDE ($8/4 issues from PO Box 166, Broadway NSW 2007, AUSTRALIA): Epiphanous Aussie stuff I can't rave about enough. If you are hip or want to get hip open your ears to Australian tuneage. It's hard to explain why their bands (not the hardcore ones though they do fine in that department as well) are able to blend so many elements to be both accessible and hallucinogenic at once. But of my top 20 or 50 bands you can bet fully half are Australian and B-SIDE covers 'em all. The only weak point is the American Noise section which is B. Coley dispersing a few facts about a few friends -- I suppose that ain't exactly doggydoo anyhow.

*BULLSHEET #8 (50¢ from 2074 Jackson, Memphis, TN 38112): Mail interviews, local news (Memphis is a hotbed of hardcore and industrial), mini reviews of everything and stark black on white graphics. This ish: Dag Nasty, Capital Punishment, Ripcord, GG Allin, Th'Inbred, Metro Waste, Controlled Bleeding, Asexuals, RKL -- lots of stuff packed in here. Plus the X-Kurzhen tape label can be contacted at the same address.

*DRACULINA #3 ($3.25 from PO Box 115, Moro, IL 62067): This ish's claim to inclusion in my musically oriented reviews is a small feature on Wendy O., queen of porn rockers. Unfortunately it doesn't have a photo from her new movie and the article is more like an extended review of her solo LP Kommander of Kaos. There is also a picture of Blondie's Debby Harry dressing up an interview with a video editor who had to cut her VIDEODROME movie for TV -- we find out just how hard it is to make the best movies airable on prime time. An early early pic of Sybil Danning in the raw graces the inside cover screaming "pin me up, pin me up".

*IMPURE and PRURIENT INTEREST (from Jack Stevenson, 171 Auburn St. #11, Cambridge, MA 02139): More material glorifying mass murderers. Seriously, Jack aspires to publishing the most extreme mags ever, but he is too gentle to rub shoulders with his subjects the way the editor of PURE supposedly did. At any rate we get a Manson poem superimposed on Sharon Tate's face, Ronnie and Nancy fucking up a storm and more Gein-o-Philia in IMPURE. PRURIENT INTEREST has the rock and roll connection with Jack's own editorial on "Mass Murder and Rock And Roll". I won't give away his point of view other than to say a lot of the ediotrializing inPI is absurdist but that he does seriously tackle the topic in "In Defense of Terrorism". These are very limited editions so send money and beg.

*KJHK MUSIC REPORT (c/o ROb Klotz, KJHK Blake Annex, U of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045): Small little things spotlighting a recent act that passed through Lawrence. For the record, KJHK is one of the best radio stations in the universe even if they did ditch their all thrash program. Write Rob, especially if you're a touring band and want pre-show hype while in the area. He's looking for tapes of bands not yet on vinyl for his late-night show too.

*OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #62 ($1 from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): Known for the internicine bloodshed on the letters page, up-to-date zine info, 4AD allegience, and most of all, TKA's inimitable reviewing style. A must for all record collectors.

*ONE WORLD (NZ$1 from PO Box 8809, Symonds St., Auckland, NEW ZEALAND): Nifty looking zine in blue-green and white and oversized. Hardcore in NZ with that world core flavor and lots of contact addresses. "Fang Mail" has the usual spirited exchanges to get your punk blood flowing.

*REASONS FOR LIVING #2 ($1 from 74 Beach St., Jersey City, NJ 07307): Subtitled "A fanzine for gushing optimists", this is literally a series of pieces by people whose lives were indeed saved by rock and roll giving testimony. RFL this time includes The Fugs, Sam Shepard, the Prisoner TV series, Hunter Thompson, Television (the band) and more. From here on in the editor will be moving towards a one-man zine -- this ish has a lot of writers.

*RISE ABOVE (2 IRCs for info from Waterfront Records, 119 York St., Sydney 200, NSW AUSTRALIA): This is their international issue so the bands interviewed aren't just Australian. In fact, the general theme of RA is to support world hardcore. The editor helps Chris from BCT distribute his tapes plus he has his own tape label featuring Spunk Bubbles. This ish interviwes Inferno (West Germany), Vultecs (Australia), Sacrilege (UK) and has a scene report on NY/NJ from Dave Burokas, editor of SPORADIC DROOLINGS, plus lots of ads for other international publications.

*SILENT SCREAM #7 ($1 from 2712 Windswept #104, Austin, TX 78744): Mini-interviews with hardcore and thrash metallers combined with morbid and macabre fun punk art combined with lots of ads for similar zines. You could say there is a whole network of young dudes who would easily be mistaken on the street for skins who are stereotyped as just in punk gangs for the hell of it -- but actually they all go home and do gnarly art, collect LPs and trade with each other. Sure, these guys are quick to call someone or something a faggot, but they've got the energy and attitude that punk is all about, and they aren't pro-censorship, anti-drugs or anti-sex, so they're on my side.

*STREET ($10/year from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02238): A tabloid billing itself as "The only magazine in the Boston Area officially endorsed by the homeless". I guess they wouldn't mind being dubbed "Bohemian" since the cover also claims that they have the largest Bohemian readership. Tangential to nearly everything, it's too diverse to be dismissed as "arty" but my closest point of reference is San Francisco's BEEF -- and even that has more music info than this one -- there is a cool column on Magick in here though.

*WHOLESOME #6 ($1.50 from 630 S. Spring Ave., La Grange, IL 60525): Another "best" -- this issue doens't have the benefit of R.K. Sloane's art for the bacover but it does have a huge Steve Albini/Bid

black interview you won't want to miss. Find out why everyone raised in Montana is screwed in the head, ha ha. There's follow up on the controversy WHOLESOME cause by printing some students' at their schools pix as examples of "cynical a-holes" -- this gag caused the mag to be banned on campus. Don't miss Barry Henssler's "joke" interview in which we find that Barry and the Nuge have been sexually intimate for years (Barry sings for THE NECROS and of course The Nuge is Ted Nugemt, waning rock superstar).

BBS's

Here's another new column to test the water. I'm sure many of you already know about Bulletin Board Systems (BBS's), but here's a quick recap for the rest. A BBS is a small computer system tied into a phone line. Other people with computers can call up the BBS and read or leave messages. The equipment to do so costs a couple of hundred dollars on up, so this is not a medium for everyone (especially when you consider the phone bills, which iis what keeps this aeditor off of them), but many people spend a lot of time chatting to others here.

FF has started to get news about BBS's, and here's what we know. Whether this column continues or not will be determined by reader response. What do you all think?

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First off there's a press release from SPASTIC CULTURE magazine (see FF18). "Spastic Culture is pleased to announce its change to an electronic format and its participation in the Art Com Electronic Network". ACEN can be accessed through the Whole Earth 'lectronic Link (WELL) at 415-332-6106. Enter "g acen" at the "OK" prompt.

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Second, here's a list from long-time FF supporter Glen Humphrey:

Private Sector BBS, 201-366-4431, New Jersey: telephone hobbyists

Dial-Your-Match #306, 202-544-4751, Washington DC: Sexuality & the occult

UFO Information Service, 206-722-5738, Seattle WA: UFOs

Drucom, 215-855-3809, N. Wales PA: X-rated; swingers

Modem Times, 303-578-5405, Colorado Springs, CO: Online magazine

PSI Net, 303-722-6210, Denver CO: Parapsychology

The Notebook, 305-655-4713, W. Palm Beach FL: writers

Logopolis CBBS, 312-484-7782, Chicago, IL: Dr. Who fans

Earth Mind, 415-474-9470, San Francisco CA: Ecology & metaphysics

Kinky Komputer, 415-552-8268, San Francisco, CA: x-rated

Lesbian BBS, 415-922-5489, San Francisco, CA: lesbians

Sex World, 516-385-9310, Port Washington, NY: x-rated

Revolution BBS, 516-877-1184, New York NY: left Politics

Para Net/The Other Side, 602-837-0062, Fountain Hills AZ: UFOs & parapsychology

Magazine-80, 603-924-7920, Peterborough NH: online magazine

The Tardis BBS, 609-448-1361, Hightstown NJ: Dr. Who fans

Gallifrey, 705-256-3223, Falls Church VA: Sci-fi, Dr. Who and Star Trek fans

SmaZone, 703-250-1837, Braddock, VA: sex 'n drugs 'n rock 'n roll

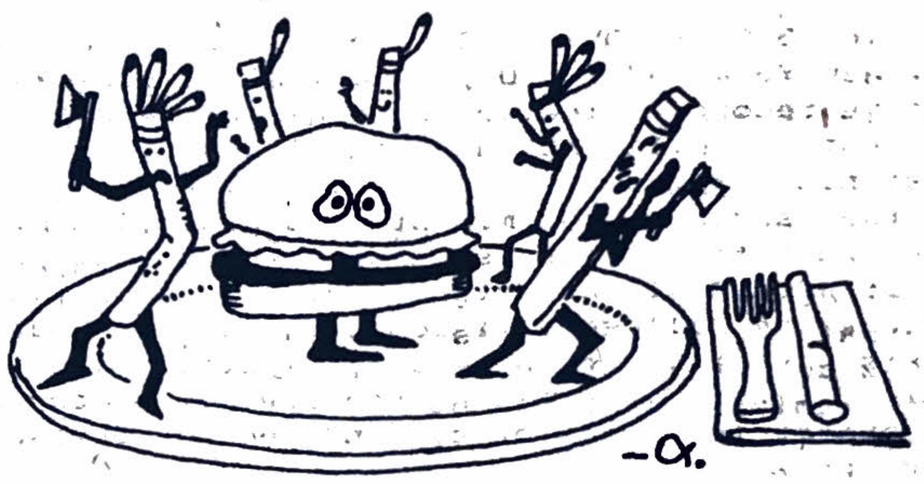
Bullet'N Board, 703-971-4491, Alexandria VA: Firearms enthusiasts

Survival Communication Forum, 707-545-0746, Santa Rosa CA: Survivalists

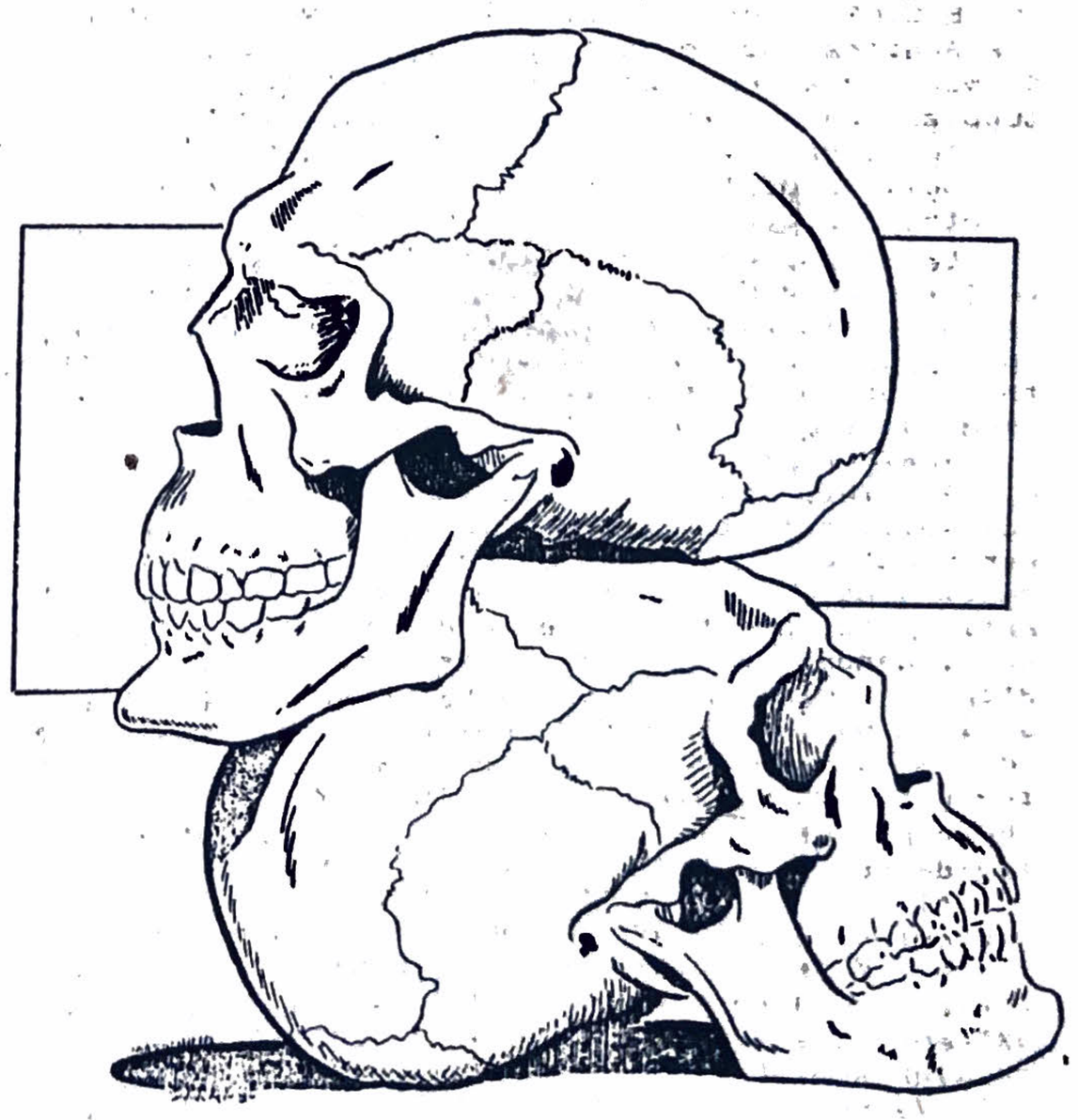
A*C*E BBS, 913, 677, 1288, KS: Association of CLandestine Radio ENthusiasts

Anonymous Jones' Information Service, 919-832-0035, Raleigh NC: Libertarians; Australia immigration information

SF Writers' Network, 919-922-3308, Bethania NC: Science Fiction Writers of America



'NOT TONIGHT, JAKE; I HAVE A HEADACHE.'



Poetry

by Alison Meyers

Actually, we're still working the bugs out of the poetry reviewing process, so reviews below are identified as to whether they are by Alison or the Aeditor. Let's try this, poetry publishers: send review material for this column directly to ALison at Everyday Books, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226. Be sure to mark the package plainly as review material for Factsheet FIve, or it may get swallowed up by the bookstore.

On with the show.

THE CORNERS OF THE MOUTH, by Elaine Equi ($6 from Iridescence, PO Box 3556, Culver City, CA 90231): Equi is, by turns, playful and serious. Her punning and sometime flippancy are tempered by her knowledge of the geography of life's sharp corners -- and by her sympathy with the humanity inhabiting that difficult terrain. Equi moves in and out of different voices and visions with ease, at once revealing both her creativity and her fundamental humaneness. 42 poems, 70 pages, offset on good paper, perfect bound. (AM)

*****

DOWNHOME RADIO GOSPEL HOUR, by John Wright ($2 from Slough Press, PO Box 1385, Austin, TX 78767): While some of the poems in this interesting volume could have used more polish, the reader certainly gets more than her money's worth: for a $2 admission, we enter a world of refreshing insight, humor and political awareness. Recommended. 34 poems, 54 pages, offset on quality paper, saddle-stitched. (AM)

*****

FLINT, MICHIGAN, by Sue Robles & A. Ostrowski ($1 from No Press, 826 W. Belmont #3F, CHicago, IL 60657): A sometimes discordant duet of plaintive voices. Though fewer in number, Robles' poems come through much more strongly, as a series of passionately yearning pleas from a woman pissing her life away at a small bar. Ostrowski seems more distant from life, less worried about the consequences, more resigned to fate in a small town. 9 pages, saddle-stapled. (MG)

*****

FREEDOM #2: POEMS AND THOUGHTS (Free from Iggy, 12904 Grandview Ct., Burnsville, MD 55337): This zine is free because, in the words of its editor, "i just can't bring myself to charge anyone for ideas. Plus it seems capitalistic to do something that one enjoys and charge people for it." Send one 22¢ stamp when ordering. Thoughts: Animal liberation (anti-vivisection); youthful resistance to labels (such as "communist" or "anarchist"); reprints of information about political prisoners. Poems: Most of these reflect the several poets' well-intentioned political awareness -- a consciousness that might have found clearer, more meaningful expression in paragraphed prose, rather than in rhymed couplets and violent imagery. Ten stapled pages of readable type. (AM)

*****

HEAVEN MUST BE WHERE THE ACTING STOPS, by Gail Meyer ($2 from No Press, 826 W. Belmont #3F, CHicago, IL 60657): 15 vulnerable and introspective short poems, set for the most part in the context of a fragile love. Though set as normal verse, these seem to be almost emotional haiku, brilliant bursts of feeling that make their points with firm understatement. One of the shorter pieces is "perseverance": "i have seen/what you can be/it is enough/to give me patience/when you are/something else". Wistful reflections on the shape of one life. 15 pages, offset on good paper, saddle-stitched. (MG)

*****

INSOMNIAC SESSIONS, BOOK 2 ($2 (?) from P. Morrow, 376 2nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11215): A largish collection of poems from 9 young writers. This is down-to-earth writing for the most part, anchored by editor David Humberman's prose-poem "Ode to 14th Street" at one end and Patricia Morrow's more reflective but still immediate "We Grow Old" at the other. This is big-city writing: one cannot imagine a poet in, say, Iowa crafting most of these pieces. Iris Lynn Perry gains the most distance from the streets with her lyrical flights of fancy, but even here the drug imagery and the rock music serve to anchor things firmly within modern society. Others to watch here are Robert Z, with short but moving works, and Gayle Hoffman, who captures some of the more discouraging of contemporary feminine experiences. 56 pages, perfect-bound. (MG)

*****

NEW SINS 2 ($2 or free sample for a loose 22¢ stamp from Rane Arroyo, PO Box A-3597, Chicago, IL 60690): "Primarily a poetry broadsheet series of humanistic erotica. We prefer short poems and rarely publish over 40 lines in length. Will consider one page plays and poetry translations if accompanied by original text. We use camera-ready art, 8 x 8½ inches, for cover (only black and white)." Super poem by Thom Gunn called "Disco Kidnap!" and three well written very short poems by William Barber. The least of the poems are "gay life" by Ron Schreiber (one wonders why the writer forced his words into stanzas when they read quite well as prose), and "Lament After S&M" by Louie Crew (here, content has been sacrificed to form) -- but even these two poems are far from bad and deserve a thorough read. Robert Peters' "Night Visitor" falls somewhere in the middle quality-wise; the poem succeeds on an erotic level; the language is original and tightly controlled. Overall, high critical marks for a publication that fulfills, but does not overstep, the editors' stated literary intentions. We're looking forward to reading NEW SINS 3, while hoping that the purchase price will go down (a price tage of two bucks is just two high!). One folded 11x17 sheet of cardstock; offset. (AM)

*****

NEXT EXIT #9 ($3 from Eric Folsom, 92 Helen St., Kingston, ONT K7L 4P3, CANADA): A collection of poems from 13 writers. Only a few of these stood out in my mind, but those few were quite good. Sparling Mills tells a couple of quiet everyday stories in moving fashion; Mary Melfi has three here, including a nice matched pair about Spring ("Spring is a philosopher unable to offer words/but only liquid thoughts: colors, inspiration."); Donald Palmer recovers a childhood memory and Leslie Nutting captures some of the cold harshness of the Himalayas. All but one poem (a reflection on life in Australia by Chris Mansell) are under a page. Photocopied, saddle-stapled. (MG)

*****

PYLON, by Joel Ward ($1 from PO Box 583, Middleton, WI 53562): For the buck Joel will throw in a copy of his broadsheet "Things That Pass For Symbols Within" and anything else he's written by the time you get in touch. Short and confusing poems, loaded down with cryptic imagery and short on obvious plot. Trying to understand these poems is as futile as trying to understand a koan: let them wash over you, though, and your synapses may fire with delayed recognition. I found the broadsheet to be most provocative: "The breathing passion/the passion

to breathe/This is what it is possessing you/This is what seizes you roughly/in cornfields..." (MG)

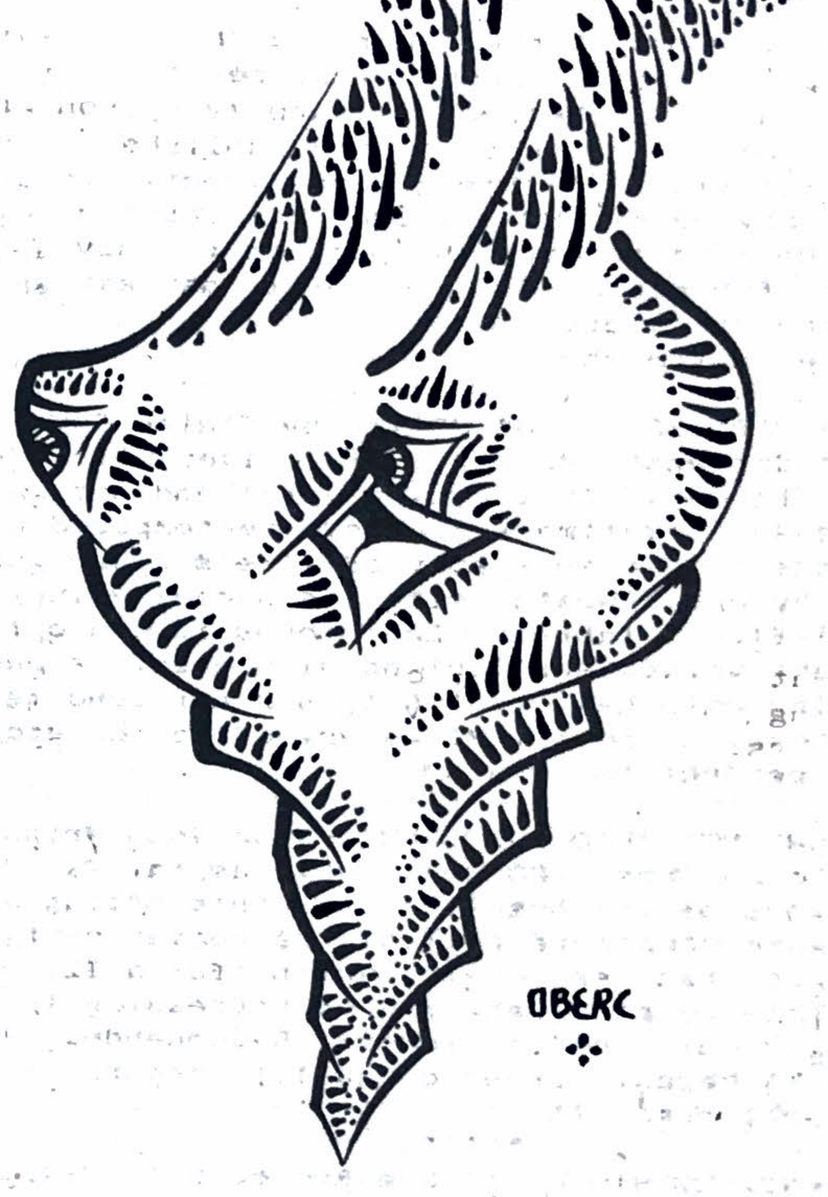
*****

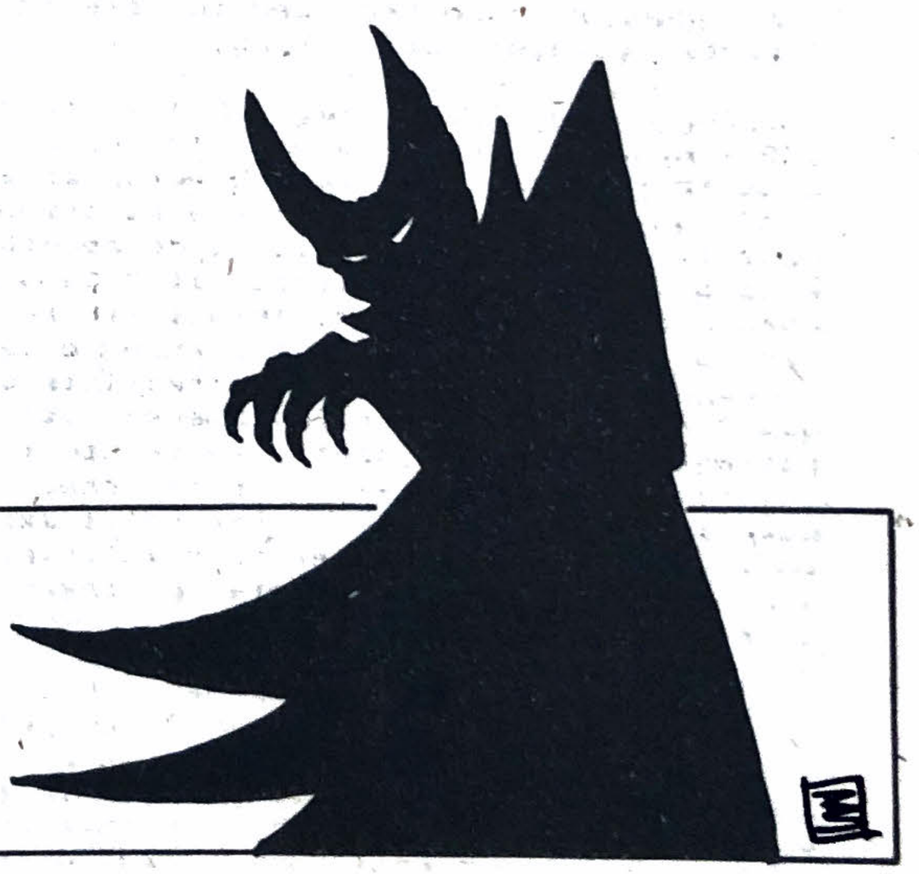
SENDING THE BODY OUT, by Anne Valley Fox ($4.70 from Zephyr Press, 13 Robinson St., Somerville, MA 02145): This is a book of poems that, at first glance, appears to be a personal testimony. The writing is well crafted, however, and it challenges us to take a second look. When we do, we see that Fox's approach to conflicts and discoveries has a mythic quality to it. The poems tell us that though men and women are often apart in their separate visions, they are also beings <u>in</u> history and in nature -- and that we must recognise ourselves as participants in the world around us in order to find our individual selves. Fox's lack of punctuation and her idiosyncratic spacing on the line are, at first, distracting; later, as we continue to read, this style creates its own comfortable and meaningful rhythm. 23 poems, 45 pages, offset on acid-free paper, perfect bound. (AM)

POETRY NOTES:

*THE WILLOW BEE PUBLISHING HOUSE (Box 9, Saratoga, WY 82331) is soliciting poems for the next issue of WYOMING, THE HUB OF THE WHEEL. Prizes offered for the best ten poems. The theme is "Dedications" and the deadline is February 1, 1987. Send an SASE for more details.

*HALTER HOTLINE (Park Pacifica Stables, 650 Cape Breton, Pacifica, CA 94044) is having a poetry contest with an equine theme. An SASE should get you the entry form and details.





Stars on One

by Anni Ackner

I just adore autumn, don't you? I mean, even if you closed your eyes and tried with all your might, could you possibly imagine a more wonderful season of the year?

Just think, if you will -- and if I were you, I would -- of all the many splendors that autumn brings. Summer, with all its attendant aggravations and annoyances -- sweltering heat, soaring humidity, nasty little bugs, sweaty itches in unreachable places, 42 year old real estate investment counselors walking about in penny loafers with no socks in the completely erroneus belief that this somehow makes the look like Don Johnson -- mercifully vanishes, the air is clearer, the nights are longer -- giving a Thinking Person that much more time to pursue the simple pleasures of life, like long hot showers, curling up with a good book in front of a roaring fire, and having a little snooze -- birds fly south for the winter -- thereby insuring that one's little snooze will not be interrupted by some feathered maniac chirping its fool head off at 5 in the morning -- people develop a seriousness of intent that they seem not to possess in the warmer months -- one very rarely sees a "Sit On My Face" tee-shirt in the middle of November, nor is one routinely expected to consume things like cold strawberry soup at dinner parties -- why, even the movies improve, as it has been incontrovertibly documented that Jamie Lee Curtis almost never appears during months with an "R" in them. Ah yes, fall has the power to bring a twinkle to the eye and a smile to the face of a Thinking Person faster than anything short of the sight of Nancy Reagan falling off the platform during a state function and, at that, fall is even more to be valued, for it has the good grace to visit once every year, while Mrs. Reagan hardly ever obliges her fans as often as they might ideally wish.

Of course, to the Thinking Person who has somehow found herself trapped, a thousand miles from nowhere, in the middle of a place that boasts three movie theaters; all of them showing SHANGHAI EXPRESS, and where video rentals are only obtainable through the auspices of the Rite-Aide and lean heavily on the continuing saga of the Care Bears, the very best thing about fall is that the new television season starts. To those of you with access to the necessities of life, to say nothing of the small luxuries -- museums, theaters, bookshops, Cinemax -- this may not seem like very much -- some of you may even scoff and insist that you haven't owned a working television set since the days when Johnny Carson worked at least 40 weeks out of the year -- but we who are trapped in the previously described circumstances, where an exciting social event involves having a chat with the fellow in the Piggly-Wiggly and a Hot Night Out means the local volunteer fire department is having its annual pig roast, I can assure you that brand new television programming is a Very Big Deal indeed.

Fortunately for all concerned I am not a Real, Grown-Up Visual Arts Critic. A Real, Grown-Up Visual Arts Critic, I am certain, would, in this instance, feel constrained to watch every single program offered up by the networks in the new season and report on each in loving, graphic detail to you and, while I like to think that there is nothing that could make me Grow Up enough to sit through the latest incarnation of Lucy's Life, well, one never really knows what one will do for a job, does one? Be that as it may, I suffer from no such constraints, and so what I am about to offer you is not a complete overview of the New Fall Season -- which, we might as well admit now, despite our excitement, looks startlingly like last year's New Fall Season -- but merely my own little thoughts on and reactions to those new shows I felt I could safely watch without compromising whatever shreds of my dignity were left after that pig roast I told you about. This, I realize, is not a perfect way to handle this sort of thing but, on the other hand, airing something called SIDEKICKS which purports to be about a tough cop who teams up with a nine year old karate expert who, when he isn't beating Bad Guys into submission with his tiny, nine year old toes, carries on conversations with his dead gradnfather (I haven't seen this show, you understand, but I gather that the grandfather hangs out inthat astral plane that also harbors Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Vader, another reason to keep passing those open windows), and then actually expecting people to watch it isn't completely sporting either.

Having said all that, then, I respectfully submit:

A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE 1986 FALL TELEVISION SEASON

First of all, lest you think you're liable to miss something by watching these new programs in lieu of your old favorites, allow me to fill you in on what's been happening on some of the standards:

On CHEERS, Sam proposed to Diane, who first rejected him and then changed her mind, only to discover that, in the interim, he had changed HIS mind, thus setting the stage for another year of the most protracted display of cock-teasing this side of your junior high school prom. The FACTS OF LIFE girls apparently all went on diets over the summer hiatus which, if they achieve the same relative success that William Shatner used to achieve with his summer reducing regimens, will give us a fine opportunity to watch them grow up all over again. ST. ELSEWHERE's Dr. Morrison got re-married during the first episode, and has managed to make it through three weeks without having his wife die, his sone get kidnapped, breaking his knee, getting addicted to drugs, having someone discover that he got his medical degree from a diploma factory in Mexico, failing his exams or being raped by a mad prison inmate, thereby setting a new high water mark on his disaster quotient, while over at GIMME A BREAK, Nell has moved to New York and seems about to adopt still another motherless white kid. FAMILY TIES' youngest child, Andrew, in a feat of time-travel worthy of Dr. Who, aged from nine months to three years over the course of the summer, but this temporal slight-of-hand had nothing on DALLAS, where it was revealed that the whole of last season had been nothing but a dream of Pam's, causing consternation among the fans, who had invested rather a lot of mourning for poor, dead Bobb, the writers of FALCON CREST, who had named one of their newborn characters after the dear departed, and some friends of mine, who were perturbed because they couldn't seem to procure any of what Pam had taken prior to having that dream; and, finally, Ackner Predicts that California will take Boston in 7, the Mets will bow to Houston in 5, and Houston will sweep California in 4. [This section, received safely before the playoffs, is preserved in the interest of the historical record -- Aeditor.]

Having now settled the old business, on to the new:

AMEN -- Once upon a time, Sherman Hemsley played a nasty, conniving, obnoxious, narrow-minded little creep of a drycleaner named George Jefferson. He played this role so well, and so convincingly, that nowadays he gets to play a nasty, conniving, obnoxious, narrow-minded little creep of a church deacon named Frye (if this character possesses a first name I've failed to register it, though I can think of a few suitable suggestions). Whether or not you consider this an improvement depends, I guess, on how you feel about the relative merits of the two professions: personally, I always thought that some drycleaners' union should have complained about George Jefferson. As things stand now, I think God may have a legitimate gripe.

OUR HOUSE: This is one of those warm, warm, unrelentingly warm bits of "family programming" that makes THE WALTONS look like THE LITTLE FOXES and causes one to yearn nostalgically for the biting social commentary of THE BRADY BUNCH. That it escapes total -- and that by a matter of mere inches -- nauseousness is due solely to the Herculean efforts of Wilford Brimley -- a fine character actor who was also instrumental in rescuing COCCOON from the gaping jaws of Cuteness, and who certainly deserves better than to get dumped in the middle of this. In OUR HOUSE, he plays a loveable, crusty old codger named Gus, whose spirited, liberated daughter-in-law and her three modern, sensitive but smart as all get out children move in with him after the death of their husband and father, and I'll just bet you can take it from there, can't you? One does wonder, of course, just why, if the daughter-in-law is so bloody spirited and liberated, she moved in on this poor old fellow in the first place and why, if Gus is supposed to be such a wise old coot (I apologize for all these agist slurs, but the situation begs for them), he puts up with it, but never mind. You aren't really supposed to think this sort of programming through, you're just supposed to curl up in front of it with a nice bowl of popcorn and feel all tingly and cuddly, and thank God and the FCC that your children have one thing to watch that won't expose them to a lot of sex'n'violence or, for that matter, controversial thinking. You might want to catch this once, just to see a really excellent actor at work but, then again, you might not. P.S. There's also a pet basset hound named Arthur.

EASY STREET: Loni Anderson is a retired Las Vegas showgirl whose late husband (this is a very bad year for husbands) left her a vast fortune, so she invites her loveable, crusty old codger of an uncle and his loveable, hip (he's black -- that's how you can tell) old room-mate to come live with her in her Beverly Hills mansion (Lord knows, that's the first thing I'd do), which she also shares with her late husband's snooty, stuck-up sister and her (the sister's) ineffectual wimp of a husband (a very bad year for husbands indeed). Cheer up -- at least they haven't yet bought a basset hound.

MY SISTER SAM: In order to watch this show, first you have to buy that Pam Dawber is a sophisticated San Francisco photojournalist. Then, you have to buy that she has a 16 year old sister, who constantly stresses that Pam is 13 years older than she is (all those who believe that Pam Dawber is 29, please raise their hands), and who has run away from home, after which you have to buy that Pam lets this sister move in with her. Finally, you have to buy that this set-up leads, not to double murder, but to all manner of fun-loving, generation gap experiences. May I suggest that you buy a theater ticket instead.

DESIGNING WOMEN: Oh at last -- one that I like. This is one of those much too infrequent programs in which women talk to each other the way women actually talk to each other, and not like refugees from either the roller derby or the Stepford Wives, so I'd give it points for that but, as a matter of fact, it happens also to be damned funny averaging, so far, two really good laughs and several chuckles per episode, which is just about all one can ask of a 30 minute sitcom. Four women of a certain age -- rather too young to be Golden Girls, but mercifully past the age of jiggle -- operate a small interior design firm in Atlanta, and if you think that isn't much of a premise for comedy, please remember that the MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW was about a 30ish woman from a small town who worked at a local news station. The point is that outlandish characterizations and bizarre plots are not what make good situation comedy; sharp, clever writing, a crisp pace and smart acting do, and this program has all three.

TOGETHER WE STAND: In which Elliot Gould, who, once upon a time, was a promising actor appearing in some important films, and Dee Wallace Stone, that perennial harassed suburban mom, portray parents of two of that type of teenager that makes adolescent suicide such an appealing option and who, not content with parenting these paragons, up and adopt an overly polite Asian boy and a little black girl who shows hints of being a reject from the Cosby show. If all this sounds familiar to you, it's because it's been done at least four times previous to this over the last 10 years, which only goes to prove that television, like life itself, is not one lousy thing after another, it's the same lousy thing over and over again.

Well, I could go on and on with this, but I think you must have pretty well gotten the idea by now. There are one or two other kinda sorta decent new shows -- Howard Hesseman's HEAD OF THE CLASS is mildly amusing on occasion and Linda Ellerbee's OUR WORLD, while it isn't as good as it should be, shows promise and is, if nothing else, a moderately different idea -- but, for the most part, I think it's going to take several glasses of spiced apple cider and someone's bootlegging me a copy of PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED (have VHS format and prefer Sony tape, recorded at standard speed, in case anyone wishes to be a real good scout about this) to keep me in my usual jolly autumn spirits this year. Short of that, I may just have to change to winter as being my favorite season, and start looking forward to the annual Bob Hope Christmas show which, the way things are going, may be brought to us via satellite from Nicaragua, and we can't have that, can we?

I mean, I guess we can't.

Curmudgeon Corner

by Garry De Young

Man is a part of nature. I repeat, Man is a part of Nature.

Several years ago I was out selling my poetry and got into a discussion with a person who did not understand the significance of this fact. This person told me, "Yes, I really love the ecology. Some summers we go up to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area just to look at the ecology."

Well, before we too quickly scoff and chortle, let's admit that there was a certain amount of validity to that person's remark. What he really meant was that in the undisturbed areas it was possible to observe the interrelationships between plants and animals. But the concept must be carried one step further.

Living in a city is not much different than ants living in a colony, snakes in a den or bees in a hive. So there is a certain relative analogy. But to think that "Nature" with a capital "N" is someplace "out there" and not right here surrounding us everywhere is a dangerous interpretation of our relationship to other living things be they animal or vegetable.

About 1961 (give or take a couple of years) there appeared an article in Science News Letter (no titled Science News) explaining a fearsome problem plaguing Italy.

Italian farmers had taken the advice of American agriculturists and abolished the smaller farms and created larger fields where big tractors could operate more efficiently. As a result of this there developed a profusion of deadly asps, pit vipers indigenous to Italy.

When smaller farms prevailed one of the yearly tasks was to clear out the brush in ditches where the asps bred and thrived and natural predators took care of the balance which kept the snake population down.

By eliminating the small farmer and consolidating the smaller farms into larger tracts, the habitat for wildlife disappeared and along with it, the animals and birds of prey which controlled the snakes.

We have a somewhat similar problem prevailing here in Northwest Iowa. Presently we are not plagued with snakes, although this is a distinct possibility. But we are indeed plagued with rabbits and this is because by destroying the hedgerows and otehr vegetation essential to their survival we are at the same time eradicating the owls and foxes which control the rabbits...and rats and other critters such as squirrels.

Corn and bean farmers don't care...but if you are a horticulturist then these animals become a real threat to crop production. Rabbits and squirrels are terribly destructive to trees and shrubs and are not much better than rats (perhaps much worse) despite the Peter Cottontail stories we were taught as children.

But let's go another foot deeper as we dig for truths. Where does the problem really lie? In the ignorance of the corn and bean "farmers" we find the blame lies at the feet of our so-called educators. I make this statement no loosely, but based on direct personal experience. Here is what I'm talking about:

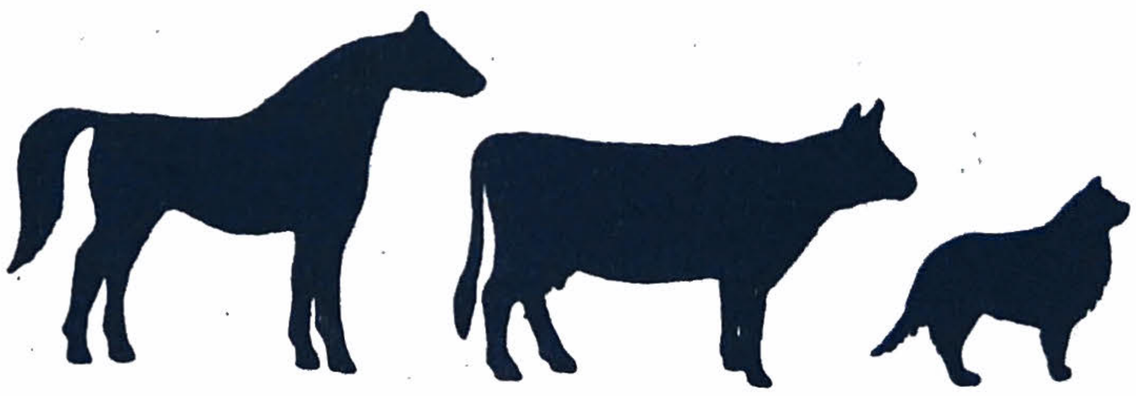
When I was teaching science in Baltimore at the beginning of the year the supervisor for science teachers called together all of the science teachers and ordered them that there would not be any assertion that there had ever been any conflict between science and religions. I was stunned that such an order could be issued, but it was, and I assume it probably still prevails. History is of course replete with endless examples of the conflict of science with religion and there are excellent books (not on the open market in America, of course) describing this horrendous heritage.

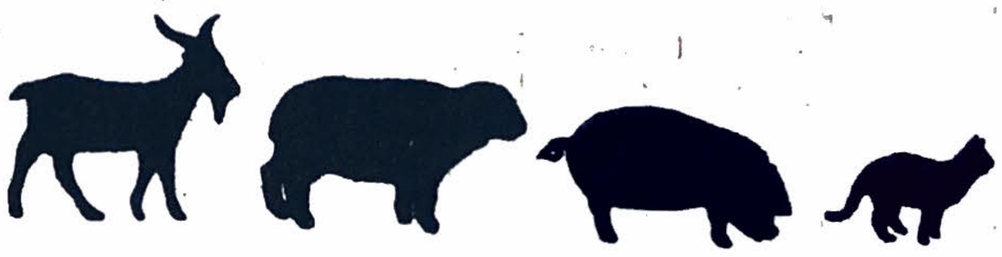
But you ask, how does this impact on the present agricultural crisis? Sample. It concerns that most subversive of all subjects, ecology. And who coined the word ecology? It was an Atheist, Ernst Haeckel and he describes this in his marvelous book, THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE, required reading at the Minnesota Institute of Philosophy.

And more. When I was chief writer for the Minnesota Highway Department I asked the chief geologist for the state of Minnesota what he thought abotu Charles Lyell's PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY. He replied that he had never heard of either the book or Charles Lyell!

This is unforgiveable because Charles Lyell is to geology what Charles Darwin is to biology and the writings of Charles Lyell should be required reacing in the high school of every community in America. But instead of giving our students this kind of solid background which would provide a holisitc approach to science we prefer instead to have them dissect frogs after pithing them. For those of you who do not know what pithing a frog is, it is sticking a needle in the base of the brain so the students can slice open the frog and watch its heart beat...a fun thing? Hardly, but in many high schools it is required as part of the curriculum.

And we wonder why we are such a callous people.





Music

FACTSHEET FIVE is pleased to welcome another music reviewer, Carol Schutzbank. Carol has written reviews for a passle of other zines and is involved in starting up a record label in Philly. So now the ends of the reviews are signed by either Carol (CS), Shane Williams (SW) or myself (MG).

As usual, we're way behind. We really are going to try and catch up next time, honest. As it stands now, we've reviewed the majority of the records received here at FF offices through mid-September. I hope this sloth does not discourage people from sending more records and tapes to review.

Two things to remember:

1) I can only list a price if you put it somewhere on the record or the accompanying promo material.

2) Shane is in Leavenworth and you can't send music straight to him. Send stuff to me and I'll try to pass it along. Someday we'll Explain All about this.

*****

700 CLUB, "Apres Moi Le Deluge" b/w "Bulimia" (Slithering Disc Records, 484 Lake Park Ave. #142, Oakland, CA 94610): These folks have a very rich jazzy sound with plenty of saxophones and harmonized vocals. That's the good news. The bad news is that these two songs seem to go on forever, with the musical novelty wearing thin very quickly and becoming repetitious. I fear the problem is that they've been overproduced, but what do you expect with 10 people on one record? (45/MG)

*****

ALARMING TRENDS, "Extended Play" ($3 from 615 E. Jewell, Denver, CO 80210): A good demo of the capabilities of this Denver-based four piece. It's mostly light rock highlighting the pleasant voice of Rebecca Watson and the singing guitar of Ronnie Cramer. Particularly on "Fever Dreams", they come together to create good music. These folks might go on to bigger things, in which case you'll be pleased to have caught them early. (T/MG)

*****

GG ALLIN & ARTLESS, self-titled (Holy War Records, c/o Dirk Ehlert, Saseler Muhlenweg 30, D-2000 Hamburg 65, WEST GERMANY -- GG's U.S. address is PO Box 54, Hookset, NH 03106): One side each of two of the most abused acts in music today. What can you say about GG Allin that hasn't been said already about this Public Animal Number 1? Don't buy this unless you can stand dirty words, despite the suggestion to play it loud to your mother. "Scumfuc tradition" is a pretty funny, but still XXX-rated, C&W takeoff. (MG) The Artless side is the same bunch of cuts on Placebo's record with Mykel Board's fdace etched on the reverse -- your choice which you'd rather invest in. Artless, Mykel's refuge after Art, now sounds kind of like Geza X with his mummymen and even has a sax on some cuts to prove it. This is Board's best yet but still not exactly essential listening. I love his lyrics: "When you're my age you'll be selling insurance" and "How much punk rock do you hear in Russia?" (LP/SW)

*****

ANTIETAM, "Music From Elba" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): With non-harmonic male/female harmonies the easy point of reference would be X, in this case with the male vocals being the ones inclined more towards offkeyness. If the comparison is to be taken any further one could note that a mixture of hard rock with folkier type instrumentation is also a factor in Antietam -- but maybe the best comparison I could make, and certainly the fairest, is that this album by Antietam possesses all the magical urgency that made the very first X album so exciting and which, whether you like them or not, has been missing in part since. Here's to hoping that Antietam never loses that spark. Unlike X, and like Sonic Youth, two of the main players are a happily married couple. Antietam are "heavy" too, yet far from being a gloom band or anything even remotely ponderous. What a great album! (LP/SW)

*****

BABY OPAQUE, "Fugue in Cow Minor" ($5 from John Beers, Catch Trout Records, PO Box 3800, Charlottesville, VA 22903): This C-ville group is history now but the record is still well worth getting. Baby Opaque put out a sound that is both dark and energetic, foreboding and bouncy. I know I'm speaking in riddles, but what else can you do with a band that crams all of the lyrics together into one long unpunctuated screed? Lots of dire rock and surreal lyrics here: "I told you to wake me up with buckets but it turned into a shower on an empty bus touring down a dirt country road into a barricade of bull cows hoss bull stands on his two back legs like the lizard kings of ancient times..." Features Ian MacKaye on backup vocals on one track. Great stuff. (LP/MG)

*****

THE BANDABLES, Demo Tape '86 ($3 from Galt Records, Inc., 209-80 18th Ave. #5F, Bayside, NY 11360): We've had good things to say about this group before, and I'm happy to say they're getting better. The new tape is 9 songs and includes both old and new material, with Jerry Kitzrow and Amy Miller continuing to trade off vocal duties in front of this poppy four-piece. The newer sound is richer and fuller than before, with "My Girl" and the new version of "Cynicism" being the best tracks here. There's also a live cut recorded at CBGB last year which proves they can do as well on stage as in the studio. Their music is tight and melodic, not at all "punk", but still full of energy. (T/MG)

*****

DENNIS CARLETON, "Sometimes I Wonder" b/w "Fill In the Blank" (Green Light Records & Tapes, PO Box 23121, Euclid, OH 44123): Denny has been rocking since the mid-60s and he's still putting out new material. This single features him and his group The Window on a couple of sixty-ish pop tunes with a nearly country beat. Denny's vocals are pleasant and the songs, while not particularly earth-shaking, are not mindless disco pap either. "Sometimes I wonder/Has anything been really changed" could almost be the refrain of lost 60s idealism. (45/MG)

*****

JOE "KING" CARRASCO AND THE CROWNS, "Tales From the Crypt" ($9.25 from ROIR, 611 Briadway #214, New York, NY 10012): The real jalapeno, heavy on the Farfisa, from the band's basement days. If you've never heard these folks, just imagine that the Beach Boys had grown up in Texas instead of SoCal. If you have, you don't need me to tell you that they play a nice mix of phoney Mexican and bar-band dance tunes in a self-conscious but fun way. ROIR has done quite a job of unearthing the early work of bands like these, and they're unique in providing the mass of their label's output to the fanzines. One of these days we'll do a label spotlight on them. Until then, even if you don't care for Tex-Mex, write and ask for their extensive catalog. (T/MG)

*****

CASSETTEZINES

These audio works are part of larger series,

sometimes including written components. With work from many artists, they are the direct equivalent of literary periodicals.

BVI-NORFOLK Autumn '86 ($2 from C.S. Smith, 1321 N. Xavier, Denver, CO 80204): Ever hear any records from the National Lampoon? That's what this one reminds me of. We have Bob Geldof KBE singing "Feed Ethiopia (Dammit)", Ozzy Osborne rhapsodizing about "Money", and a surprise appearance by President Raygun, among various other surprises on this half-hour tape. The printed accompaniment includes an advertising survey and the BVI-Norfolk Guide To Sex. (T/MG)

MALLIFE 10 ($3.50 from Bomb Shelter Propaganda, PO Box 1393, Tempe, AZ 85281): A collection of pieces from the first 9 issues of MalLife, set to music and recorded by a host of local strange people including Al Perry (who edited & mastered the tape), Fred North, Rich Hardesty and editor Mike Miskowski. Mike says "Most of this material is a response to direct contact with an abundance of shopping centers. Mostly locals who watched far too much TV...Later most still visited malls, to gain enlightenment or to DRINK HEAVILY. Some still do." The music has a certain Southwestern flair for the most part, like a C&W bar band whose drinks have been spiked with mescaline. The images purveyed by the riders tend to dwell heavily on the Consumer Age and its meaning, and the tape comes with a booklet containing all the lyrics. A faithful translation of mail art from one medium into another, an incredible value, and my pick hit of the issue. (T/MG)

SISUBEAT 1 ($6 from PO Box 361, 00121 Helsinki, FINLAND): You ought to buy this just because it's such a fantastic bargain: for that price you get a 70-page pfanzine and a 70-minute tape, postpaid across the Atlantic. The tape itself is kick-ass rock, and I found myself cranking up the volume even if about half of the songs are in Finnish. Styles range from garage (22 Pistepirkko's "Ou Wee") right up to the Dire Straits-ish cut from Eppu Normaali ("Kitara, taivas ja tahdet"). Great stuff. The zine is in English (except for a few snide remarks) and covers quite a bit besides the FInnish rock scene: Stiv Bators, Soviet rock, Salem 66, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, among others, put in an appearance. Fanzine reviews and lots of photos, too. Rock and roll is alive and well and living in Finland. (T/MG)

SNAPSHOT #7 ($6 from Steven Peters, PO Box 20655, Tompkins Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10009): An audio cassette magazine dedicated to the sounds of everyday life. Expressly avoiding music, studio productions or anything created as "art", SNAPSHOT relies on the taping skills of its subscribers to capture the evocative details of life. The selections of #7 encompass a great variety of things, including a parade, an airplane trip, parties in Indonesia and Mexico, a washing machine, frogs (my dog loved that one), a train, the call of a whipporwill, and much more. The tape comes with hand-colored xerox accompaniment, both explaining and expanding upon the project. Here you will find some of the other ephemera of life, including an old letter, giant plaster dinosaurs, and a piece describing some old slides from a garage sale. (T/MG)

*****

NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS, "Kicking Against the Pricks" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville, NY 11571-0570): Anyone who has been reading the interviews Nick Cave has been giving since the Birthday Party broke up won't be shocked by this. He has said how he really wants to cover a few themes over and over again and get 'em right, the themes being the concerns of the old black bluesmen whose influence has also been heard on the two preceeding Bad Seeds LPs. While Nick doesn't sound like an old black bluesman he definitely sounds like the rock singer he is meditating upon these guys. I don't think anyone who ever appreciated the man's voice can quibble with these covers -- the backlash I've seen in print against this seems misguided. (LP/SW)

*****

MICHAEL CHOCHOLAK, "Skomorokhi" (M&M Music, Rte. 1, Box 55, Cove, OR 97824): M&M Music is Michael on keyboards (everything from piano to SFX-type synth noises) and Misha Chocholak on flute, along with a bit of vocals. This is a very nice multi-tracked stereo tape featuring a batch of instrumentals that explore the various moods they can create. Sometimes the music is peaceful, almost pastoral (monkey river, cat's eye), sometimes mystical (skomorokhi, the left brain). There's an eastern tinge to most of the rhythms and an almost stfnal feeling to cuts like "tesseract". A nice tape, and one I shall relax with in the future. (T/MG)

*****

CRAWLING WITH TARTS, "Loneliness" ($4 from ASP, PO Box 7568, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-7568): A hand-painted cassette in a handmade cardboard cover, from a group that used to produce a little magazine. Now they produce little and unpretentious tapes, mainly free-flowing non-vocal music (though a couple of these tracks have guest vocals on them) that reminds me a bit of jazz, only played with the instruments usually reserved for rock, with a healthy dose of synthesizer. Not loud and obnoxious but slow, thoughtful and intense. Titles include "Dali's Wife" and "Putting Orange in the Torso" (T/MG)

*****

DAMN FOOLS, self-titled ($8 from Nunzio James Cobb, 217 E. Rische St., San Antonio, TX 78204): INGREDIENTS: Poetry, guitar, melodica, doumbek, sax, flute, tone box, moog, casio, bass & interpretation for the deaf (live performances only). May contain traces of John Bennett and/or six fingers. INDICATIONS: Use this product in case of terminal boredom and a desire for new experience. SIDE EFFECTS: May range from disgust ("We Want to Eat Your Feet" to confusion ("Frontier Bondage") to monotony ("The Same"). CAUTION: Do not drive or operate heavy machinery under influence of this tape as it has severely hypnotic portions. Do not use this tape with a chainsaw present as irritating parts may cause unpredictable violence. Void where prohibited. If symptoms persist, consult your Doktor. (T/MG)

*****

FIFTH COLUMN, "To Sir With Hate" (Hide, 363 Queen St. East, Toronto, ONT M5A 1T2, CANADA): 4 femmes with some help from their friends. Not too many bands along these lines around -- it's not garage but there is a nifty organ sound, and it's not punk but the guitar often sounds like the distortion knob is on and it's not "world" music but the drums take you along some pretty nice beats. These girls claim to love bubblegum; they somehow see it as non-macho and less exploitative of women. In a way this is a fminist band but instead of tedious rants they have a spoken narrative type song about the police spying on a male bathroom to catch male gays. Usually I tire quickly of spoken stories set to music, but the organ riff is appropriately querolous and the way the narrator intones "Set it to musci girl" and the riff starts up is really endearing. I must say that vocally the highlights are the 2 cuts where the regular vocalist is replaced by one of the other girls. I especially like "Modern DIseases" which not only muses about which ones we've got byt has an extended musicala ending best described as progressive rock with no pomposity. This is pretty original in concept and execution and now it's Mike's turn to congratulate

re for getting through this whole review without mentioning that they are foxes, a term they'd no doubt bristle at ha-ha. (LP/SW)

*****

FUNCTION DISORDER, "<<<Function Disorder>>> west" (Corpus Mucus Productions, 475 Gate Five Rd. #212, Sausalito, CA 94965): Hard to verbalize about these experimental tape babies. I don't even know the right genre title. I do know that I like this and the combination of bubbling-under-water electronics and distorted vocals along with plenty of powerful noise makes for rpetty interesting listening. Not off-putting at all. (LP/SW)

*****

RANDY GREIF, "Lost Contact" ($6 from Swinging Axe Productions, PO Box 3741, Northridge, CA 91323): A rather science-fictional tape. Apparently this was made in large part via synthesizers and other electronics; although there are no credits, I wouldn't be surprised if it were an entirely electronic one-man production. The music tends to be eerie and even dirgelike, overlaid at times with distorted vocals and underlaid with the sounds of an alien orchestra. Occasionally it drags quite a bit, with a single phrase of music pounding itself deep into your skull, but then a lightning change of melody will recapture the listeners's flagging attention. (T/MG)

*****

LAUGHING ACADEMY, "Of Rhyme and Reason" ($5 from Camaraderie Music, PO Box 403, Kenmore Stn., Boston, MA 02215): An interesting amalgam of pop, avant, new, dance, darkly spooky music that has a life all its own. The clear, well-produced quality of the recording brings out the fine shadings and subtleties in the music, while the mastery of the instruments never fails in its originality. (T/CS)

*****

MEN & VOLTS, "Tramps in Bloom" (Iridescence, PO Box 3356, Culver City, CA): With the DUPLEX PLANET's Dave Greenberger on bass and the title cut dedicated to the residents of the Duplex Nursing Home, there's a direct connection to the zine world not often found even among unknown bands. Catchy little tunes with nifty lyrics and a good beat. Try this bit from "Someone Else's Money": "I work all day, or as long as I can stand/To get someone else's money dropped in my hand/No use to fold it, can't save it or plan/There goes someone else's money back out of my hand." Most of the lyrics are pretty straightforward, but a couple of the songs (like "Hinayana Calling" and "The History of the Moon") are more mystical. This sort of thing is what garage rock was invented for. (LP/MG)

*****

THE MICRONOTZ, "40 Fingers" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Center, NY 11571-0570): Sentimental favorites of mine since they played live here, but without a doubt this is one of 86's best albums and a crying shame since it didn't propel their tour into financial liquidity. Meanwhile this album is a hair less consistent than last year's "Best That Devoured Itself", due possibly to having to write some songs in the studio to get an album's worth together. But the ones that do work, work in a big way, kind of somewhere in betwee DOA and HUSKER DU, each at their best, not at their current vinyl shadow of former selfness. (LP/SW)

*****

MINIMAL COMPACT, "Raging Souls" (Crammed Discs, PO Box 1702, Canal Street Stn., New York, NY 10013): Somber, brooding, sultry...Minimal Compact has taken these adjectives and given them a whole new meaning. Rich, carefully crafted melodies mix rhythm styles and influences, melding middle-eastern flavors and chant-like bases with modern dance beats. There is an almost dreamy touch to this release, but it is balanced by an earthy undertone that pulls the listener along deeper in to the subtle textures and shadings of the release. At once delicate and forceful, Minimal Compact has managed to straddle the best of several styles, to create a release of maximum enjoyment. (LP/CS)

*****

MY DAD IS DEAD, "...And He's Not Gonna Take it Anymore" (St. Valentine, PO Box 79116, Cleveland, OH 44107): MDID consists of Mark Edwards on guitar, Mark Edwards on bass, Mark Edwards on drums and Mark Edwards on vocals. Astute FF readers will recognize this Edwards guy as half of the team that publishes POLLUTION CONTROL when he's not in the studio recording multiple tracks. The music here reminds me of a minimalist attempt at recreating the sound of the B-52s, with the guitar line being by far the strongest part of the record. Mark's vocals tend to be sort of droning, and he really ought to consider letting someone else join the group. (LP/MG)

*****

OUT OF ORDER, "Paradise Lost" (Independent Label Alliance, PO Box 549M, Bay Shore, NY 11706): A lot of people whould have you believe that punk -- in almost all of its forms -- is dead or dying, and that there's no future for any of it. Fortunately for all of us there are bands around like this one, who put out a release with enough brash energy in it to shake the shit out of a brick wall, let alone a negative doomsayer. Out of Order are a talented and creative foursome who cleverly make use of all of the elements of punk that are so tried and true -- the speed, the rapid-fire guitar intensity, hard-hitting rhythms, gruff, hard-edged vocals -- in a new and invigorating manner. To listen to this album is to appreciate the old (the style employed) while enjoying the new (the talent that employs the style). (LP/CS)

*****

PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH, self-titled (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Center, NY 1571-0570): Hey, I mean you've got to like a band with a song with the chorus "What the Fuck" and don't fuck it up with lame music. I've read them deprecatingly compared to an amalgam of early SST bands, well maybe that's good in my book, not bad. In any case I think they're aw'reet. (EP/SW)

*****

PRIMARY COLORS, self-titled ($5.98 from After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): According to their own description, the name "Primary Colors" describes the band's musical philosophy: take three basic elements (colors/music) and then combine them in various ways to create still other elements. Thus you have a strong beat, a catchy melody, and intelligent sensitive vocals, all brought together, making music that is danceable, enjoyable, and highly shaded with nuances of emotion and texture. A very pretty release. (EP/CS)

*****

PSYCHO, "Six Song EP - Son of 8 Song EP" ($2.50 from Ax/ction Records, PO Box 623, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142): Boston's great white dope who are keeping hardcore alive without going metal (as so many of Boston's finest have). Of course that's old news since most of the metal-convert bands went under and Boston still has a healthy 'core scene with zines like XXX and SUBURBAN VOICE to prove it. Anyways, this sucker rocks way steady and actually could be called metal because of how powerful it is, but the lack of long guitar solo frills keeps it solidly in the punk rock camp. Psycho are also one of the best bands on the BCT vinyl compilation (see below). (EP/SW)

*****

THE REACTIONS, "Cracked Marbles" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Like Gerard says in the Homestead promo, a lot of people can't figure out why he signed them. They are either his bid for a band that

will sell a few extra records (doubtful), or a group his Ms. gets the hots listening to (possible), or just some twisted kink in his own ear (probable). They're not bad, just rather tame and ineffectual and would fit in perfectly with regular REM - Cactus World News - Guadalcanal Diary programming. Now none of the above are bad, they're just good or fair, not Homestead material at all. (EP/SW)

*****

REDMATH, self-titled (Independent Label Alliance, PO Box 594M, Bay Shore, NY 11706): Redmath are basically a dance band, but they're one with an extremely complex sound. This stuff is not repetitive disco but rather constantly-changing barrages of new rhythms and harmonies. "The Wall of Insects" is my fave cut with a constantly shifting lineup of layers of sound. The music is quite diverse; acoustic, electric and steil guitar all make an appearance, along with synths and drum machines. Best of all, Redmath knows when to end a song and go on to something else, making this a lot of fun to listen to as a whole instead of just as seperate cuts. (EP/MG)

*****

RITUAL TENSION, "I Live Here" (Independent Label Alliance, PO Box 594M, Bay Shore, NY 11706): Dirgelike rock with a hypnotic beat and spoken or shouted lyrics. These compositions seem to be directed towards a sort of surrealistic dread: "Dancin down the tightrope, you discover it's been greased, with the blood of the kid and the fat of the whale whose cries never cease". An unrelenting, uncompromising album with music that is anything but easy listening and a tension that never lets up. "All personnel report directly to stations. This is not a drill. Emergency." Anyone who listens to this late at night or under the influence of dangerous drugs is just begging for an unpleasant experience. (LP/MG)

*****

SUBCULTURE, "I Heard a Scream" (Fartblossom Records, PO Box 818, Pomona, CA 91769): Primitive, punch-packing hardcore with a mean beat and a barrage of heavy-duty guitar sounds. At times the wall of sound created sounds almost industrialized -- and then smack in the middle of all the noise a slow, almost ballady type of song appears to completely throw you off and demonstrate the fact that this band is capable of some nifty versatility -- a versatility to watch for on upcoming releases. With their energy and passion, this one promises to be one you'll hear from (loud and clear) again and again. (LP/CS)

*****

TAG-YR-IT, "Predator Score" ($8.98 from After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): A solo ten-track of clarinet plus various synthesizers and drum machines masterminded by Dale Stevens. If it was all done with horns this album would be jazz, but the electronics invite comparisons to Eno and other avant-garde rock figures. Ignore the comparisons, though, and this album is enjoyable on its own, contemporary enough to be fun without being so experimental as to grate on the nerves. Pick tracks: "Hamsters" and "Machine Language", a couple of bouncy danceable numbers. Dale has a talent for making the songs sound like their titles. (LP/MG)

*****

THROWING MUSES, self-titled (4AD Records; U.S. Contact Ken Goes, PO Box 9515, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747): Most FF readers should know by now that I love the Muses (see FF15,16). Now they've gone and gotten themself signed to a reasonably major record label and have real live vinyl out in a suitably arty sleeve. Most of the songs on here were also on their promo tape; a few have been dropped (Alas, my favorite "Sinkhole" is one of the missing) and a few added (including "Stand Up" from their first EP). These are all new recordings and have drawn criticisms in some quarters for overproduction. Certainly they're different from past TM releases, and one of the differences is that they're musically slicker, with some extra tracks being added and some of the sketchy music filled out. But this seems more evolutionary than revolutionary to me. I suspect I'll continue to listen to the old tape in the car, when I want something upbeat to propel me around town; this album, while still musically exciting, seems more suited to late evening play. It's certainly not time to write the Muses off, and I recommend that anyone interested in new non-punk music pick up a copy of this, and plague your record store to carry it. (LP/MG)

*****

THE JOHNNY THUNDERS, "New Too Much Junkie Business" ($9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #214, New York, NY 10012): Some bands just go with certain drugs -- remember listening to Pink Floyd as you sucked on your first joint, trying to figure out what getting stoned was all about? If there's anything to this theory, then this is music for the heroin buff; heavy into drugs himself, Johnny makes no bones about having a sleazy East Village view of life. This tape is strung together from various live performances (some of them full of arguments between Johnny and the musicians who didn't come in when they were supposed to) and studio cuts, and it's the raw edge of rock and roll at its best, stripped of punk postures and electronic marvels. (T/MG)

*****

TRIAL, "Moments of Collapse" (Rough Trade, 326 Sixth St., San Francisco, CA 94103): From the opening bombardment of powerful percussion, to the last fading tune, this album is one that is guaranteed to generate a feeling of impassioned force. Trial are an aural explosion of noise, sound, rhythm, moody crooning and much more. Darkly melodic, the album falls into the doom and gloom mystery category of music -- but on a very loose basis. There's too much metallic explosion for it to be labelled that neatly and put away. Trial is one band to be reckoned with. (LP/CS)

*****

URGE OVERKILL, "Strange, I..." (Ruthless Records, PO Box 1458, Evanston, IL 60204): How about this: I got this dubbed at the wrong speed and I still liked the hell out of it. I wasn't sure it was the wrong speed because the music sounded fast enough (sort of like old Swans) but the vocals sounded distorted but cool as hell. Anyways, they're a Big Black/Killing Joke heavy rhythm/shards of guitar noise type of band (at 33 1/3 they're slower but still rhythmic and shard-y). Good stuff. Hey guys! How about marking each 12" EP or LP or putting speeds on any piece of vinyl? Or at least put it in the promo! (EP/SW)

*****

Various Artists, "Better Than God" ($4 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): This is a compilation based on an idea I wish more labels would use: the tracks here are culled from Office Records' other releases. No one will ike everything here, but the great thing is that if you do like something you'll automatically know where to get more. I thought the standouts were Ack-Ack's rhythmic muzak, Secret Goldfish's garage-rock "Big Decline", Pete Govert's minimalist cover of "Kingston Town" and the haunting melodic strains of Area's two tracks, but you might disagree. Also included on this tape are cuts from The Arms of Someone New, Nick Rudd, and Tim Hanafee. (T/MG)

*****

Various artists, "We Can Do Whatever We Want" (Bad Compilation Tapes, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): The tape label of thrash compilations does their first vinyl (and plan to do more). The

highlights on here are the two cuts by Detention. Uncharacteristically they are SoCal boys near to AT's home, most of these contributors are from foreign lands. Their song "Dead Rockers" is one of those rousing humourous punk songs that doesn't lose its charm. How could it with charming lines like "I never really cared much for John Lennon, but at least he didn't drown to death in his own puke." Also I got a surprise on this because I liked the Italian bands better than the Finnish ones and usually my tastes run the other way. (LP/SW)

*****

Various artists, "Woodshock 85" (El Jefe Records, 225 Congress #203, Austin, TX 78701): All this stuff was recorded live in one marathon concert in the great outback of the Lone Star state, with 90% of Austin's scene makers present along with assorted others. You can hear the bands get sloppier and more loaded as the night progresses, ending with the Hickoids, THE cowpunk band, screaming into a maelstrom of guitar noise that they are not a Nashville band. Musical highlights are mainly of the garage band type: Ideals doing "Slow Death" or Poison 13 doing "Seventh Son". the Offenders, a super tight thrash band on record, are even garagey here, admittedly they are trying to hang on at midnight and play the damned song right. Out of towners U-Men (Seattle) put in an appearance and in-towners Scratch Acid don't -- maybe they didn't want to play with another band critics dub as Birthday Party influenced. Lamest song is Zeitgeist's version of "Summertime". Really cool ambience on this double disc. (2 LP's/SW)

*****

VIKTIMIZED KARCASS, "A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE" ($5 from Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): The Harsh Reality sound. Imagine Skoptzies trashy song ethos combined with Mental ANguish's unrelenting barrage of effects and you get the most sophisticated Chris Phinney project to date. One hell of a prolific musician with a cool Memphis-sounding voice that comes through all the manipulations. Lament the passing of his zine MALICE and look for the SPORADIC DROOLINGS interview early next year. (T/SW)

*****

VOLCANO SUNS, "All-Night Lotus Party" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Imagine Sean Penn when he was busier sucking bong loads instead of you-know-who, in his archetypical stoned surfer role saying, "Man these guys are the kind, let's party!". And they are. Godlike guitar noise with a sense of humor. Forget the MISSION OF BURMA connection, MOB were never this balls-out on any vinyl I'm aware of. Not too many bands around that can use guitar noise to as good an effect. (LP/SW)

*****

THE WALLMEN, "Eel Vibes From the Voodoo Kitchen" ($3 from Dead Judy Records, 7711 Lisa Lane, Syracuse, NY 13212): This SubGenial group continues to crank out the hitz. Jethro Deluxe, Omar and Lazlo Vegas play a variety of instruments and noisemakers as they explain the facts of life, producing something approaching music much more closely than do most SubG bands. A few tracks: "Drag That Karma", "Slackless Torment" ("Got to find me a job with some slack/Got to get these assholes off my back"), "Spank my Subconscious" and "Armageddon Groceries". This tape also contains the complete rock opera "New Milford" and enough confusion to baffle any dupe of the conspiracy. (T/MG)

*****

MUSICAL NOTES:

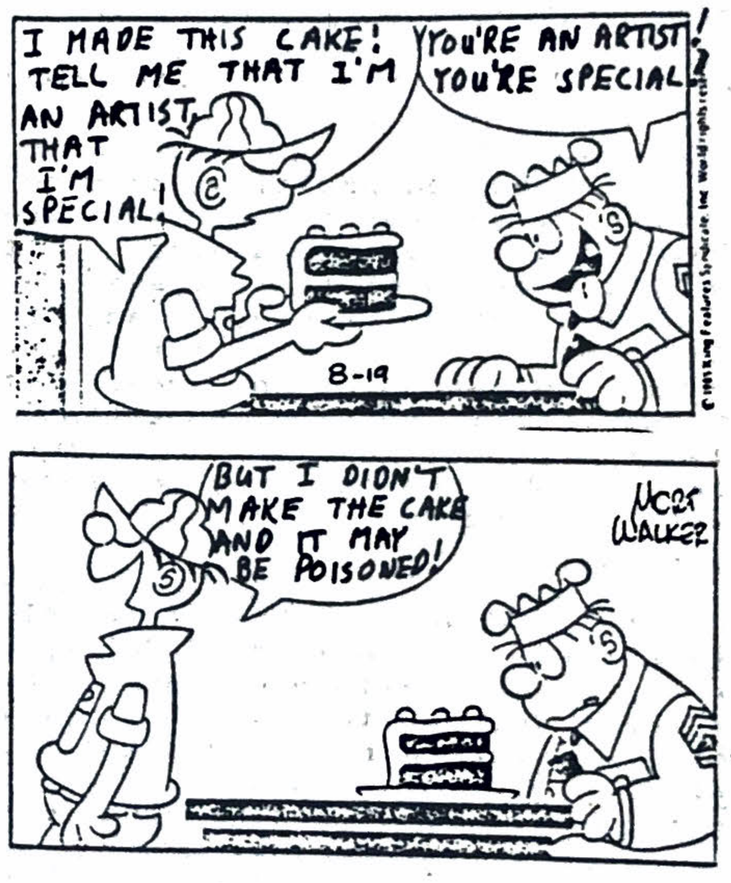
*DEVASTATION, A Chicago thrash metal band (c/o Troy Dixler, 811 Stonegate Dr., Highland Park, IL 60035) has a 4-song 16-track demo tape available for $8.50.

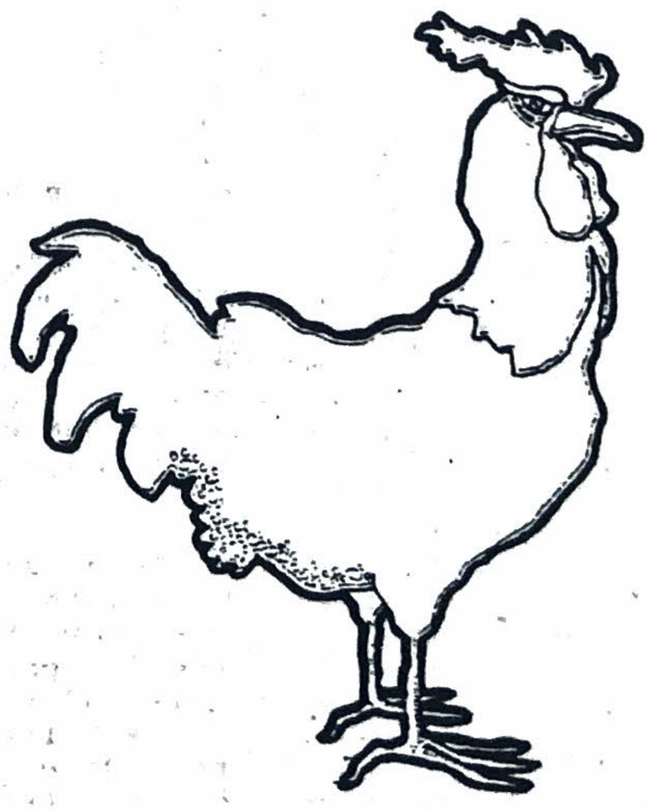
*THE RIO BISBEE BAND (RFD 279, Rockland, ME 04841) has a variety of SubGenial and otherwise strange music for sale. SASE for a copy of their list.

*TALENT SEARCH AMERICA (96 McGregor Downs, W. Columbia, SC 29169) is sponsoring an amateur musician's songwriting & lyric contest with cash prizes. SASE for details.

*MARTYR MUSIC (716 S. Linden Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208) has been having some trouble with the law lately. Among other things, this means that the "Pornographic Nightmare" cassette reviewed in FF19 is no longer available, although the rest of their catalog still is. Lead singer Adam Eisenstat is up on obscenity charges in California -- have we heard this somewhere before?

*Paul Kasper (Blentarp 19, 27035 Blentarp, SWEDEN) has a 20-page list of US and foreign records up for sale. Send him a couple of IRCs for a copy, I guess.





Why Publish?

Editors: Why not get your own thoughts in this column? Jot down a few words and send them off to me, so that we may more effectively corrupt the youth of tomorrow into the fanzine hobby.

*****

Luke McGuff, LIVE FROM THE STAGGER CAFE:

As to "why I publish", I can't really say for any concrete reason. I've been doing it for about 7 or 8 years now, in one format or another, and probably will continue on and off for at least another 7 or 8. Yeah! I like the communication, the writing, the creativity, getting stuff in the mail. I like getting and writing letters, and being made to think in ways that mainstream media wouldn't challenge me.

*****

Rich, ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

Why publish? Glad you asked! Is it for the fame, to get in free to gigs, pay for BMWs? I don't think so (I'm not sure yet). But maybe it's just the joy of doing something productive and enabling others to read something that made their day a little bit better.

Sorry, that's kinda corny. So I'll just say that I publish to get girls, drive in BMWs and eat free in restaurants!

Then again I could be lying. You decide.

*****

Tracy Hunker, TESTUBE

I guess I've been at it longer than most people currently running a fanzine (since June, 1979), and I've come to all the conclusions everybody else has long ago. Along the way I've learned many short cuts and have acquired the equipment and access to printing to make doing an issue a breeze compared to my first year. It has even brought me jobs on other publications. What I have not been able to figure out is the marketing/distribution side of the small press and how to pay the rent with it.

TESTUBE has gone from an expensive artzine to a tabloid to a newsletter to a record, tape & zine distributor to an audio cassettezine to an annual directory of creative people and resources and back again to a tabloid. I've done a flexi-disc, enclosed free 45's and tapes, done editions of 100 to 4,000, and gotten mentioned in Esquire magazine. Less than 100 people have subscribed over the years, including the Whitney museum and people thinking it was a business newsletter.

More recently, TESTUBE has quit as a printed magazine and in its place I started HIGH STREET ART which I also cannot bring myself to continue. On the other hand, since HIGH STREET ART was started Columbus has made its Short North area into a popular art district with 2,000 people going to the monthly openings and 3 dozen cultural related businesses opening up in one year. the Short North has brought attention to many local artists & musicians, but patrons want it all for free, just like my magazines.

The most success I've found is with the audio cassettezine. It can bring in extra money with only small sales while giving many a real example of indie new music. I pay royalties for the songs and most bands don't write back. However, the best thing is that if it doesn't go over, I still have tape decks & tapes instead of a pile of newspapers. So I want to abandon the print media and expand into a video magazine, or something else electronic.

I realize the print media (especially cheap newspaper printing) can get a lot of information out to a lot of people very cheaply. But it's like everything else. It takes too much time, money, and persistence to get people to pick it up. There tends to be a big gap between something one or two peopl can put out in their spare time and a magazine that is financed by the bank with a team of employees.

After 7 years, I'm not happy with the small press world. I think there should be more halping of each other and editors working together. However, I think the real reasoning behind all the activity has to do with the future. What the copy machine and home computer is a part of will someday be a huge electronic media village using little paper and transferring tons of information for pennies. We have started all these small zines as a subconscious vote for what design we want the future of electronic media to be. At one time cable TV was to be the big thing. Now people have made the VCR the video medium of the future. We want electronic media we can both consume and produce ourselves even if it means more cost.

So, if we all hang in there another ten years or so, the fanzine media will one day be shaping the way we all handle information. As for the print media themselves, you can't expect much return unless you can handle the economy of scale of this industrial age relic.

*****

Sylvia Carlson, APAEROS

I guess you could say APAEROS was born out of prurient interest: I wanted to learn more about sex, and share information and titillation with others. Publications I knew of on the subject either didn't address enough of my interests, would not publish mys tories, weren't very open to new members, or left me with bad feelings.

Putting out the first issue of APAEROS was a wrenching experience. Fortunately things have lightened up. Now (on APAEROS' first birthday) I'm very happy with the results (even though I'd like more women participating). I've learned much, both from those writing in APAEROS (and writing for it myself) and from contact with other publishers APAEROS has brought me. I'm more comfortable with my own sexuality, feel I have greater understanding of others', and know better what I want and how to go about getting it.

Yes, at first I had embarassing fantasies of raking in millions; and having to fend off all the hordes hot for my bod. But I've had to contend with neither. APAEROS has remained a "G" string operation, just about breaking even.

APAEROS' samples are given out for only an SASE. I don't know how I'd make out charging for them. (Another apa on sex charged $5 just to get on their mailing list --which galled me).

The sample issue is 24 half size reduced pages, selected from the first four issues which ran 24 pages each. Almost 300 samples have been sent out. Of the current issue (#5), 41 copies were mailed initially, and another 10 or so may go to new people before #6 comes out.

APAEROS' cover price ($2 per issue) is fairly high. However, for interesting submissions, extension credit is given. Amount varies, but has averaged over $1 per author per issue. So, in other words, most subscribers who write for APAEROS get it for half price or less. (This is an attempt to encourage participation, without encouraging junk submissions which I feel happens when there's a mandatory minimum submission requirement).

Turning Over New Leaves of Grass

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

with apologies to Anonymous and Walt Whitman

Dedicated to Robert Anton Wilson, who first said to me: "Try not to worry".

Vandals Took The Handles "George just ate," he said as we reached Georgia State Station. "Keep a worry'll King memorial," he added as we pulled into King Memorial Station. The Secret Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi bit the dust.

(Try not to worry if these vignettes seem obscure.)

Democracy in Georgia Lester Maddox and Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young keep us in snitches.

Classless Society Bob Black says the San Francisco police wage class war with no class.

Perhaps You'd Like a Martini Every day of my life I am beseiged by people who want to convince me to have been born a Pisces instead of an Aries -- arguments equally futile, anyway. They want a token misfit, I guess. Wishing to understand them would be like wanting to understand people who think freedom can be defended with slavery called conscription or that property can be protected by means of robbery called taxation. There isn't time to sit and chat with Big Brother, to jack off in synch with drill sergeants counting cadence, to drivel in Newspeak and worry about when the prime rate will go up to 69¼ percent. "We haven't got time for coffee, tea or milk," said Shelly Berman.

Relax in the safety of your own delusions, if you prefer. As for me, I like the danger of my allusions more than I care for your illusions. (An allusion is an obscure, in most cases in my writing, literary reference -- not to be confused with a message in conspiratorial cant. My allusions are obscure only because they tend to refer to my own work and reading. It isn't on purpose.)

I can almost hear Allen Ginsberg saying, "They bombed Cambodia again today."

I'm so paranoid I think Big Brother was watching George Orwell.

If Herbert Marcuse was actually a politically conservative John Kennedy assassin in drag, I'm going to be a very pissed paranoid, besides.

Do you long for the day when government is listed a highly endangered species? Did you enjoy your stay on the desert island with that Tyrannosaurus Rex? Do you suspect the Ancients knew something others didn't? Why did Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev say, "We will Beria" in a famous speech? Did Trevor Howard doodle in Morel's concept of The Margin? [A character in The Roots of Heaven based on a novel by Romain Gary (maybe wrongly spelled.] Would Bob Black like this rap? Are the answers to these and other questions ruthlessly guarded by their traditional keepers?

Profession Threading beads called words on strings called fate.

Example TIME magazine allegedly discovered economics, lacking predictability, is not a science. True. It doesn't take a scientist just to detect and explain con games. Predicting what new games for old the con artists will devise would, if it were a science, be called criminal psychology.

Application So if you've been snookered by bankers try not to fall into Jay Gould's next trap of calling them Kike bankers the way Ezra Pound did.

Artsy-Craftsy Afternoon of a Writer You people almost got a beatnik place in Little Five Points, called The Point (one of five, I presume) where the urge to write poems without capital letters or periods overtakes me to the point of almost wanting to wear turtle-neck sweaters in the summer Georgia heat. Poems about jazz, natch. "Dif that groovy word, groovy," Carol Eden said one day in Ruffino's. I mean, like, there's just no other word for it: Groovy," she added with an Ayn Rand colon. (I was Objectivistly objective to beatnik slang.) This trip was preserved for you in the National Archives courtesy of God Mother's Country Apple Pie (probably, unfortunately, not an equal opportunity sponsor). (Allende, or whoever Pablo's father is, thinks I go to McDonald's on purpose. Man, like, when you are hitch-hiking and you've been on the road without nourishment for hours and you reach an outpost of civilization, such is life!)

When I was in Washington, DC, I wrote on the plywood, "Henry Kissinger probably masterminded the John Kennedy assassination," and then flipped a coin to decide between McDonald's and the Burger King.

Said Captain America to E-Z Rider: "Who's Paul Krassner?"

I'm getting drunk here so I can go swimming in the river, even if it takes all night. There's nothing to bolster your courage about cold water more than a couple of beers.

Paul Who?

I Hear America Singing Elections are a little over a month away.

There are so many third parties this year we should probably stop calling them that. The DIscordian Party for the War on Evil is the only one of them called a Fifth Party.

National Labor Day weekend is underway. "Forget about why it isn't just May Day," is the unspoken message to every anarchist. In Moscow, on International (May Day) Labor Day, they parade the full strength of the Russian military through Red Square. The unspoken message to every anarchist: "This time, if those infantile left-wing ultra-leftists ever try to hold another rally, we're ready for 'em."

And you know what the outrageous demand of the revolutionary radicals gathered in the Haymarket was? An eight-hour work day. Fanatics.

[To be continued. This is the second of Kerry's notebooks to be serialized in FACTSHEET FIVE. Watch for the announcement of the newly revised and expanded edition of NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO, coming soon (I hope).]

Books

We're going to have a rather abbreviated BOOKS column this time. A lot of things in my schedule had to give this issue, and with 500 pages a week of required reading, the books for FF were one of them. Expect a double dose of reviews next time. Meanwhile, so that the authors get something for their effort, here's a preview of what's coming up in FF21:

Alex Douglas, CLEM ($6 from PO Box 86010, N. Vancouver, BC V7L 4J5, CANADA): The 1986 edition of the Contact List of Electronic Music, 90 pages long and containing more international contacts than you can shake a stick at.

Yael Dragwyla, THE BOOK OF THE OUTLAW ($5 from PO Box 1548, GOleta, CA 93116-1548): A SubGenial analogue of the Crowleyan BOOK OF THE LAW.

Pat Fish, THE BIG GOLDEN BOOK OF FLASH ($40 from PO Box 777, Santa Barbara, CA 93102): A collection of tattoo designs from around the world.

Hugh Fox, PAPA FUNK (Brian Clark, 5018 Bayard St., San Diego, CA 92109): An excerpt from a novel in progress.

Janet Fox (ed.), FROGS CROAK AT MIDNIGHT ($1 from 519 Ellinwood, Osage CIty, KS 66523): The winning entries of the Killer Frog short story contest.

Eckhard Gerdes, PROJECTIONS ($5 from No Press, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): An extended surreal prose poem thing.

John Held, Jr., INTERNATIONAL ARTIST COOPERATION: MAIL ART SHOWS, 1970-1985 ($5.50 from The Library Store, Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201): A catalog of several hundred mail art showe over the past 15 years.

Tom Hibbard & Joe Uphoff, SURREALIST PHILOSOPHY (1025 Garner St., Box 18, Colorado Springs, CO 80905): Just what the title says.

The Justice Advocate, LIBRARY FOR SCHOLARS ($5 from PO Box 3125, Denver, CO 80201): An informatioon clearinghouse for the Constitutionalist movement.

Jim Lippard, FUNDAMENTALISM IS NONSENSE ($3 from PO Box 37052, Phoenix, AZ 85069): An atheist argument against various Fundamentalist creeds.

Johann Most, THE GOD PESTILENCE (50¢ from The Match!, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): A reprint of a classic atheist pamphlet.

Spider Rainbow, CONTROL SYSTEMS AND SOCIAL CHANGE (Fourth World Press, 819 Peacock Plaza #609, Key West, FL 33040): A collection of essays on the state of the anarchist movement.

Paul Reynolds (ed.), THE COLLECTED EDITION OF THE NYTEBYRD NEWSLETTER AND THE ZOO LOO MOON ($4, see SRAF in apa reviews for address): Newssheets from the underground.

Jack Saunders, EVIL GENIUS ($5 from Mixed Breed, PO Box 42, Delray Beach, FL 33444): An autobiographical novel fromthe most prolific unpublished writer I know.

Alex Stella: A YOUNGER EARTH ($8 from Deinotation-7 Press, PO Box 204, Susquehanna, PA 18847-0204): A new novel from the author of CRYSTAL STAR and GIOVANNI.

John Strausbaugh, FLYING FISH ($7.50 from Dolphin-Moon, PO Box 22262, Baltimore, MD 21203): Stories, Poems, a flexidisc and assorted miscellany from "One of Baltimore's undiscovered artistic treasures". Beautiful production.

Mycall Sunanda, GEODESEE ENERGY GAMES ($2 from Oness Press, PO Box 75, Calpella, CA 95418): "Playing for fun and learning NaturEnergy pattersn & cycles cooperatively."

Kerry Thornley, THE DREADLOCK RECOLLECTIONS (2981 Lookout Place, Atlanta, GA 30305): A work-in-progress about Kerry's own involvement in the Kennedy assassination.

BOOK NOTES:

*EVERYDAY BOOKS, MICHAEL ZIESING BOOKS, and MARK ZIESING BOOKS (all at PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226) all have new catalogs out. A 6x9 SASE with a couple stamps should get you copies of the works. Everyday books sells feminist and poetry, Mike is into anarchy and social change, and Mark is a great source for SF and fantasy. I've done business with these folks and I'm satisfied and you will be too. An opportunity to get your books from human beings instead of the clone down the street at B. Dalton. And if you're ever in Willimantic, leave a few hours to visit their bookshop on Main St.

*THE HARLEIAN MISCELLANY CLUB (Rte. 10, Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501) has a variety of Libertarian and associated books for sale at prices from about 50¢ on up. Send an SASE for their latest list.

*INNER TRADITIONS INTERNATIONAL, LTD. (377 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016): These people have a 32-page catalog of books on various New Age topics, including astrology, Ginseng, Sufism, moxibustion, primrose oil, herbs and allergies. Emphasis seems to be on self-healing and astrology.

*KANGAROO COURT (847 E. 7th, Erie, PA 16503) announces the publication of DILLINGER, a series of lyric poems by Todd Moore, in a 13-volume set to be released over the next five years. Write for details on individual volumes or the complete set.

*THE MAGIC BULLET PRESS (1358 Lindbergh Ave., Roslyn, PA 19001) is soliciting page-length stuff for the MAGIC BULLET SCIENCE FICTION ANTHOLOGY.

*McCLINTOCK BOOKS (PO Box 3530, Warren, OH 44485): This guy sells a variety of collector's items in the SF/fantasy/horror genres. A buck will get you on his mailing list.

*NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS (Life Center Association, Inc., 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143) put out a tabloid catalog of "Books to Build a New Society". These are about things like the Hanford nuclear reservation, social ecology, nonviolence, gay liberation and consensus decision making. New Society is a non-profit, worker-controlled publisher.

*NINEWORLDS PUBLICATIONS (PO Box 1792, Breckenridge, TX 76024) is the book-publishing arm of the Asatru Free Assembly, the folks who put out THE RUNESTONE. They have a variety of books on the old Norse, Germanic and Celtic religions available.

Letters

Why don't you repeat a review of some items which are one-shot things but which have exceptional interest and amusement? For interest, NEO-TECH, DELTA, BABY AND THE BATHWATER...Since you grow so fast you have great readership numbers that missed some vitally weird and incredible items.

Also, how come you didn't end up at East Greenbush? Was that a joke?

--Bag of Water

/* The idea of repeating one-shot reviews is a good one, but as always, the cost of pages argues against it. Still, I'll think about dredging up things from the past starting with next issue.

According to the County records folks, we live in East Greenbush, but according to the Post Office, we live in Rensselaer. Guess who wins when it comes to mailing addresses? */

*****

Please note that STUDIO X is a linking pin for the local Persian (not Arab) community.

--Edi

/* Oops. */

*****

Looks like ol' Thornley is teetering on the brink there a few times -- as the siege mentality goes into overdrive. That happens. When they lock rats up in overcrowded cages the poor things go berserk. So the strategy of the intelligence community is often to deprive humans of psychological space for the same end. This is done by giving them unsolicited advice about their personal relationships, trying to tell them whether or not and where and when to masturbate, etc....So I apologize for sounding so insane, but then that is the truth -- sometimes the bastards nearly drive me nuts, and I always write just what I'm thinking.

At the end of the long rant in the missle, the very last sentence, in fact, there is a misprint. It reads "If you expose me, expect sabotage..." It should read: "If you oppose me, expect sabotage..." This is important because being exposed is the opposite of my problems; if I could push a button that would cause everyone to understand all that has happened to me since the day I was born, that would solve most of them -- including my problem of not understanding how, when, and why all this began, myself.

I'm sorry some of the passages are so cryptic. You find the same thing in the journals of Oswald and Sirhan. Microdot. Now, if I could only get a white Mustang...Blitherblitherblitherblither.

--Kerry Thornley

*****

A punkzine laid out neat and tidy is like a punk show with reserved seating. Complaining about not being able to read them is like asking the band to stop playing so you can hear what lyrics the vocalist is singing. And looking at your music reviews, you might consider doing just that.

That is not what punk is about. Not tidy layouts, not slow and carefully enunciated lyrics....A phrase like "a good and tidy punkzine" is self-contradictory. It can be good, it can be tidy, but not both. As you must have noted, SICK TEEN is considered the ideal among most punkzine editors....

On another topic, I'd like to ask you why you find the lunatic fringe so interesting....Do you really have an abiding interest in the umpteenth account or explanation of UFOs, reincarnation, astrology, and other such mind-numbingly tedious bullshit? And the unending political conspiracies that these folks dream up? You seem to be an intelligent person, so it's hard to understand how you can find all that pointless crap interesting.

--James Fringe

/* Well, I certainly don't know shit about punk. You'll note that I use "pfanzine" to identify any zine mainly devoted to music, and make no attempt to determine which ones are truly "punk". When I complain about (or promote) the SICK TEEN type layouts, it's to let my readers know what these zines are like, so they can buy what they're interested in and (I hope) not get too many surprises.

Yes, I do have an abiding interest in the lunatic fringe. What they teach you in school doesn't explain everything, and I don't know everything. Sure, there is a lot of bullshit out there, but just maybe there are a few grains of truth as well, or useful ways of looking at the world (Check out John Lilly's extension of classical logic to include the category of "as if true" to see what I'm talking about). In general, I keep such an open mind that the brain is in constant danger of falling out of the back of my head. */

*****

I'll definitely buy the next ish at Paradise Records in Northampton, Mass. I know you want mail orders but I want to support a new alternative mag rack.

--Jaem

/* That's nice, but as far as I know I don't sell any copies to Paradise Records. Readers, if your record or book store carries alternative zines, why not drop me a line with their address so I can get in touch? I really do like to encourage retail sales as well as mail orders. */

*****

I heard you don't trade for advertising (trade ads for ads, that is). Is this true?

--Patrick Rael

/* 'Fraid so. I just don't have the space to devote to it: consider what would happen if even a third of the zines I reviewed tried to trade ads with me. Trade ads don't bring in enough business to cover their own printing costs. The best I can do is to keep my ad rates ridiculously low. */

*****

Judging from the increasing print run and distribution stats, most of FF readers will be unfamiliar with the mag's history. Sometime you may wish to explain the Founder & Spiritual Advisor listings.

--Don Webb

/* Those date back to about 11 years ago when I was hard at work on the underground newspaper at my high school. Though they don't really have a lot to do with FF per se, Saints Miller and Trever did a lot to get me into the flaky alternative press in the first place. They deserve some recognition for this terrible thing they've inflicted on the world. */

*****

Significantly, I think the newly-sized 'zine moved more swiftly through the United States Postal Service. I can testify that the copy I received was in better condition than was wont with smaller size.

--R.K. "Doc" Hinton

*****

Thanks muchly for the continuing supply of FACTSHEET FIVE; they're a lot of fun to read (by the way, how do I become a member of The Committee for the Dissemination of Multiple Realities?).

--Ken Goes

/* In another universe, you already are. */

*****

Thanx for printing my address in FF 18, I received letters from Canada, Australia and Finland.

I don't think you know how are zines printed in

Poland. There is one fine magazine called "Non-Stop" which is printed legally. But authors cannot write about all important problems because the censorship is very strong. They cannot write about political problems, about bands which have anti-government lyrics, etc. Non-Stop is about all kinds of music.

But there are some zines printed illegally, e.g. QQYRQ (by Pietia from Warsaw), AZOTOX, REVOLTER (by Krzysiek, Warsaw), GANGRENA (by Pawel, Gdansk), OBLED (by Dzidek, Szczecin) and OBOK (by Ferment and Artur, Slupsk). Zines are all printed on zerox. The best zine is QQRYQ. it is about Polish and international punk scene and politics (a great article about explosion in Chernobyl.

What is a problem? I cannot send you QQRYQ and other zines because all letters with printed matter are opened by customs officers and read. Zines are in Polish and officers can read easy, they know it is illegal and...next actions you can imagine yourself. I think they'll not read my letter because it is in English, they are lazy.

Soon I send you some Polish singles to review. I am going to be a half-legal distributor of Polish music. Payment will be in blank stamps or it will be exchange or IRCs. I will prefer exchange "one Polish record, tape for one record, tape from your private collection", because it is legally action. I cannot receive money in letters, it is illegal and money is travelling to customs officer's pocket. Prices I send you next time. I think we can exchange records too, I think you have more records. I would like to swap records I cannot buy it. You know -- West money not equal East money, strange world! Exchange is only way. Polish music is sometimes great, you will listen to it!

--Tomasz Kolodziejczyk
NIA/PSMM r. MALUCH
Dekabrystow 26-30 DS-5
POK 422
42-200 Czestochowa
POLSKA/POLAND

*****

I also want to express my appreciation for BFS being listed in the "Publisher's Choice" section of F.F. #19. In our opinion, it's the underground's equivalent of the Oscars or Emmys and, needless to say, a great honor. FACTSHEET FIVE always pulls in more than a handful of responses (even more than the BOSTON REVIEW article!)....

The task at hand for all the zines reviewed in FACTSHEET FIVE is to take our attitudes, our sensibilities, our dreams and make them "work" in the marketplace of ideas. If we can do these things we really WANT to do, then we have gained a measure of freedom. The hardest thing is avoiding the quicksands of indecision, lies and delusion. Fortunately, our mailing lists are full of helping hands reaching out to pull us from the muck. Amen.

--Dennis McBee

/* Amen. */

*****

Thanks for the (basically positive) mention in F.F. #19. However, I must take exception with the beginning of the review, in which I feel you are guilty of mis-information by taking two totally seperate articles thereof in order to create an illusion of self-contradiction which, in rality, is completely invalid and baseless. I am referring to "Steve, for example, advocates following nature's order when talking of milk drinking (no other animal does it after infancy) and yet also gives a recipe for vegetarian dog food."...The recipe in question was contributed by a person other than myself....I printed what I received. EXISTENTIAL RAGE is not the product of one individual, it is a result of the contributions of thirteen (this time) individuals.

--Steve, EXISTENTIAL RAGE

/* OK, it's my fault for missing the credits that would have made this clearer to me. But I'm still uncomfortable with the juxtaposition of those ideas. It seems to me that those of us advocating anarchy, vegetarianism, disarmament and so on are on treacherous enough ground without blatantly advertising the contradictions within our movements. I don't think a lot of the "nature's order" argument for vegetarianism myself (although I am drifting towards eating no meat), but if you're going to make it, you ought to make it as forcefully as you can. If that means being selective about what you print, so be it.

Then again, it's your zine, not mine, and whatever you do is right. */

*****

I have attempted to obtain WONDERLAND twice now, first on 7/3, then again on 9/2. As I asked for 2 issues each time, I have lost $10. Now I hear through the grapevine a rumor David Techter is in jail thanks to some entrapment scheme. Can you verify this? The loss of 10 bucks is bad enough, but I don't want to be on a list somewhere which will send the Meese smut patrol to knock down my door.

--anonymous

/* The only rumor I know linking Techter and entrapmeht is the one from NAMBLA that says he's a polic plant himself (I found their evidence so unconvincing as to not warrant printing in FF). Readers? */

*****

If, say, SPASTIC CULTURE isn't in the latest FACTSHEET, that doesn't necessarily mean they've died or anything. Right?

--Naomi Rubin

/* Right (though in the case of SC, see the BBS column this issue). If I don't list something, it just means that I didn't get a copy between deadlines. */

*****

Help! We are trying to raise $800 to print BEST OF CLOSEST PENGUINS...

--Denise Dee
254A Oak
San Francisco, CA 94102

*****

Reviews of controversial material are acceptable, in my view, not because of any opinion they might present, but because readers of FACTSHEET FIVE may want to know what is happening to other forms of alternative publishing, besides that of zines.

--Simon G. Bone.

*****

For information on Louis Farrakhan (letters column FF19), try Final Call, Nation of Islam, 734 W. 79th St., Chicago, IL 60620.

--Robert E. Preston

/* Thanks, I'll send 'em a copy and see what happens. */

*****

I don't know if the change of printers or format had anything to do with it, but #19 was really excellent; far better written than before, almost no gratuitous fuggheadedness, less typos and a good deal of clever writing and, gasp, even wit! FF has been improving every issue but this was a big jump ahead. And I would have said all this even if you hadn't given THE RUBBER FANZINE a really excellent review. Keep it up!

--Rudi Rubberoid

*****

I didn't realize how much your reviews meant to me 'til I got (slightly) panned. How do you expect me to have an abundance of men pictured on my pages? (The writing does usually break down to 50/50). Women paint themselves & men paint women. Don't blame me -- I can only print what I get -- I ain't rich enough to hire nobody.

--Lily Pond, YELLOW SILK

/* Any FF artists think they can do good erotic

pictures featuring the male form? Get in touch with Lily at the address in the ZINES section. */

*****

The fanzine reviews are still interesting to read...but I'm afraid that on a practical level, the heavy punk-rock slant of the zines you've been reviewing for the last few issues deems that section practically useless for a non-punker like myself.

--Dave Szurek

/* I review what I receive, of course. But only 67 of the 410 zines I reviewed last time are about music, and that includes some pretty non-punk stuff such as DOO/DAH and GALACTIC CROSSROARDS. I believe you when you say most of the zines doon't interest you, but I don't think the punks are to blame. */

*****

I've had 80 responses to your plugs. AMAZING!

--Jakeel

*****

I noticed the mention of WALLS OF GENIUS demise in the late news secion...as far as information goes, here goes: RRRECORDS, 151 Paige St., Lowell, MA 01852, will be distributing WOG cassettes...in stock at this moment are MADNESS LIVES and SON OF MADNESS...I plan to stock him in the near future with MYSTERIOUS CASE OF PUSSY LUST and CRAZED TO THE CORE, which I consider to be the two most representative cassettes produced by WALLS OF GENIUS.

--Evan Cantor

*****

Whew! Factsheet Five 19 came Friday, and I was impressed as hell by it. What an achievement!

Friday night Eric Kosberg had a party, and Joe Hoppe was there too. We stood around talking about it and patting ourselves on the back and acting famous for a little while. Then Joe tried to climb on the roof but somebody stopped him. Somebody who will NEVER be listed in Factsheet Five, by the way. Hah!...

One thing that I think might be helpful, depending on what you think, is a listing by city. There seem to be a lot of magazines from Minneapolis, so that's why I'm asking....Just more warm bodies to invite to parties, that's all.

--Luke McGuff

/* Sounds interesting. I might try it if I can find the space. */

*****

I think it's fair to say no one on earth has paid us $15.00 for the current issue of the Artpolice magazine. We felt it was appropriate to at least be up front about our costs and how we value 1,000 copies of our infamous zine, and 75% of each issue is distributed free as always.

--Frank Gaard

*****

Speaking of recordings, the only quarrel I have with your publication concerns the extreme punk-hardcore bias held by your pal, Shane Williams. I used to be into hardcore too, and I still listen to it from time to time, but believe it or not there is 'life after hardcore' and just because music doesn't consist of white-noise guitars and screaming, it isn't necessarily a sell-out, as most of the hardcore scene seems to believe. (As an obvious example, I know of no jazz artists that are in it for the money -- the idea is ridiculous! The money simply isn't there to be had.)

--John VonSeggern

/* Watch Shane's next column for his thoughts on the matter -- I neglected the mailbag for too long to give him a shot at it this time. */

*****

Really hope you can continue producing F5 in big format. #19 as informative as always, but more & more throw-away phrases are being used. More detail & opinion, I'd say. You're still a swell feller.

--Trevor

*****

MTV & The Rockefeller Foundation are in the SAME building: 1133 Avenue of the Americas. Lydon LaRouche was right. We ARE taking over.

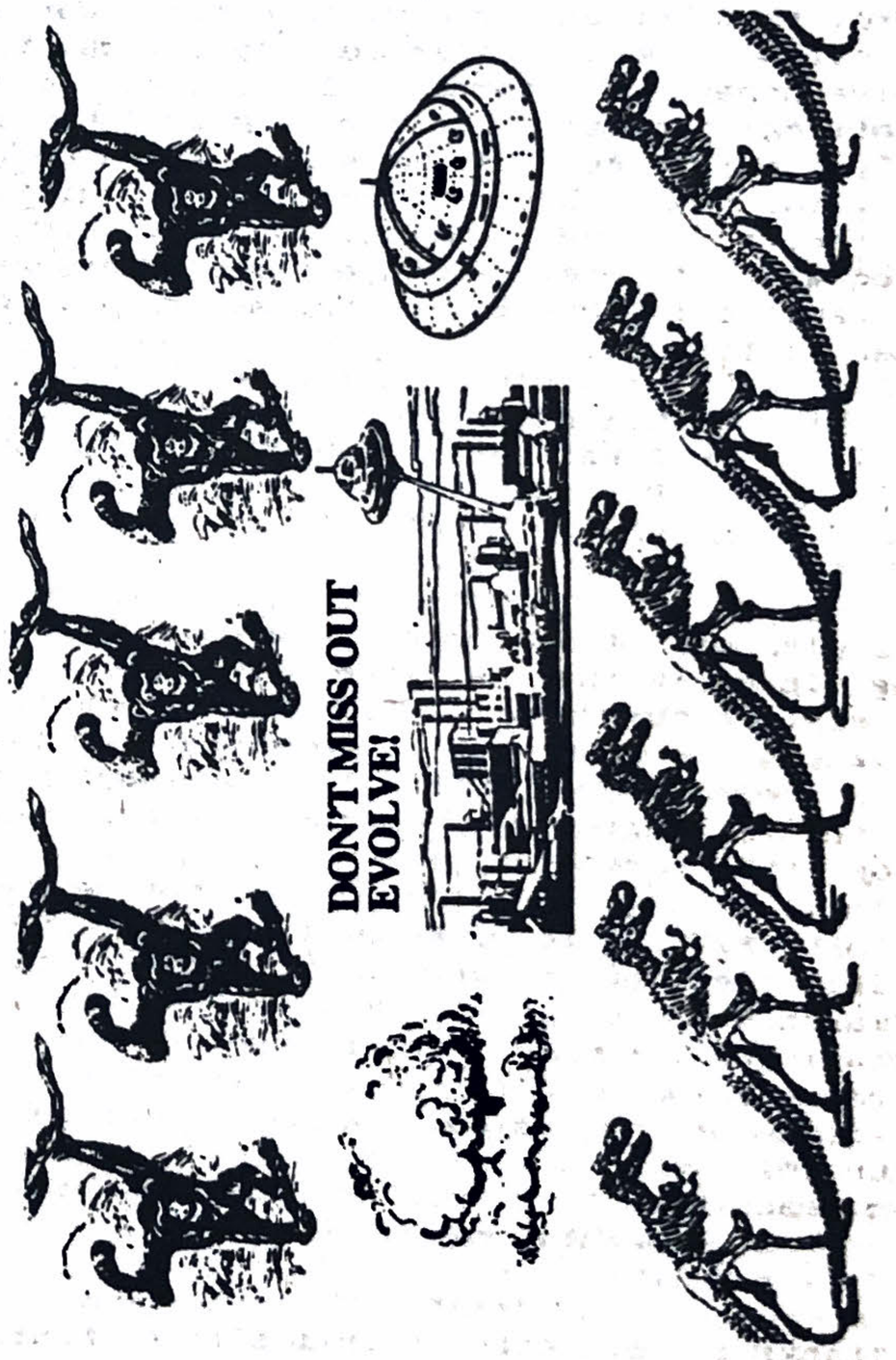
--Remy Chevalier

*****

Where/How do you keep all the stuff you get? Is your room filled with sacks of stuff everywhere? Does it spill over into your friends' houses too?

--Ed

/* Now you understand why we just bought a five-bedroom house. Actually, with the exception of a few crates of apa mailings in the attic, it pretty all much fits into my study so far, filling a six-drawer filing cabinet and ten cardboard transfer file boxes. I expect to overflow the available shelf space there within a year but...the attic and the basement are both plenty large. Someday I hope to open this collection to the public, so I just keep socking it all away in file folders. */



Cities

What follows is a list of zines in major metropolitan areas. These are the top ten zine-producers, at least as far as my mailing list goes. Since this list was produced right from my mailing list, and not from current FF contents, you may have to search past and future FFs to find details on all of these, and some of them are probably defunct already. That's life.

Boston: THE NOISE, AMERICAN LIVING, X IT OUT, CENTRAL AMERICA REPORT, PEACEWORK, BAG OF WIRE EXPOSE, THE RESIST NEWSLETTER, DEAD CLOWN, DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY, FORWARD EVER, U.H.F. ENDEAVORS, GET STUPID!, BANG!, NEOLOGIST'S GUIDE TO UNIVERSES, FORUM, THE DANDELION, SYNOPSIS, FORCED EXPOSURE, FALSE POSITIVE

New York: THE BOB, DOWNTOWN, T.H.R.U.S.H. NEWS, THE BIG TAKEOVER, CONFLICT, MOSCOW GRAFITTI, SLEAZOID EXPRESS, SNAPSHOT, WORLD WAR 3 ILLUSTRATED, BAD NEWZ, ON GUARD, TELLUS, PWA COALITION NEWSLETTER, INTERNATIONAL GRAFFITI TIMES, OVERTHROW, GRUE, CONTENTIONS, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRANS NWSLTR, CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER, BIG APPLE NEWS, THE GOLFING EXPERIENCE, NEW ANARCHIST REVIEW, NOTES, STIFFING THE FERRYMAN, INSIDE JOKE, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, AMERICAN FORUM, BASKETCASE, JEREMIAH, VOICE OF ZEWAM, FISHIE TALES, THE FIRST HOUR, MODERN TIMES, LAND OF THE LOST, FRAGMENTS, NOTMEMO 45, BAD NEWS, MOSCOW TRUST GROUP UPDATE, NEW ART FOR A DANGEROUS AGE, THE DISHWASHER'S QUARTERLY, JETT BLACK LETTER, ARTITUDE, INSOMNIAC SESSIONS

Washington, DC: TRULY NEEDY, AAMPLITUDE, MORMON CURIOUSITY, WDC PERIOD, LEFT-HANDED REVIEW, NEW OPTIONS, EMANCIPATION, BUILDING ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES, AMPERSAND, GARGOYLE

Minneapolis & St. Paul: TADDY WAMPUS, VINYL, SPEW AND REVIEW, MANALIVE, LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES, RUNE, ANOTHER MOTHER, HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR, JOE'S 6 1/2, LIVE FROM THE STAGGER CAFE, YOUR FLESH, THE HONEYWELL PROJECT CIRCULATOR, NORTHERN SUN, POWER FOR LIVING, GREY ZONE, SANCTUARY, SI!, ARTPOLICE, BETWEEN THE LINES, LITTLE FREE PRESS, NEW UNIONIST, PUKE ON THE WORLD, TWIN CITIES MEN'S CENTER NEWS, THE UNICORN, INSIGHT, K.P. INC., ARTIFEX, COLD-COCKED, RAGTIME, UNCLE FESTER, MY WIFE, THE PHOENIX, GOO GOO ROLLER, IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER, NEW HORIZONS

Chicago: IT'S ONLY A MOVIE, NOMOS, US RECORD CLUB, WONDERLAND, LAME BRAIN, FINAL CALL, NOMOS, PANIC, NO MAGAZINE, X,Y,Z

Los Angeles: APA-TAROT, SPIEGELMAN'S MAILART RAG, DECENTRALIZE, BRAIN MIND BULLETIN, CATAZINE, FOR YOUR SKULL, BLITZ, SUB-9, AN-AESTHETIC, OPTION, INK DISEASE, FLOATING UNIVERSITY, ALARUMS & EXCURSIONS, SPIRIT SPEAKS, BEYOND THE BLACKOUT, THE LARSEN FILE, FLIPSIDE, SUNDRIED FISH, FEAR FANZINE, SYNTHESIS, THE BLOW GLOW/EGAD, FREE MARKET YELLOW PAGES, NEW LIBERTARIAN, AMBASSADOR REPORT, JIM, MINI EXAMINER, JND, HOLIER THAN THOU, FIFTH COLUMN

San Diego: BLACK MARKET, LIVELY ARTS, THE DAILY IMPULSE, PAPA FUNK, TYPHUS NEWS, COMET HALLEY, DRAFT NOTICES, PYROTECHNICS, HUMANIST CENTURY

San Francisco: THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKER NWSLTR, GOLDEN GATE, SRAF BULLETIN, LGLC NEWSLETTER, NAMBLA BULLETIN, PHALLOS, UNION OF OPPOSITES, ZYZZVA, BOUND TOGETHER NEWSLETTER, UNSOUND, MURDER CAN BE FUN, THE BRAIN EXCHANGE, LOW NOISE, SIDNEY SUPPEY'S QUARTERLY & CPM, EVA, METAL MANIA, JUPITER MAGAZINE, TAROT NETWORK NEWS, BEEF, BOX OF WATER, BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT, DEADBEAT, FORGIVENESS NEWS, THE NODE, SCHISM, TRUISMS, GENRE PLAT, HUMAN EXPPRESSIONS, SWILL, ATROPHI, PUNCTURE, TORTOISE TRAILS, LIGHT ON THE BAY, RAISE THE STAKES, THE SAN FRANCISCO SYNTHESIST, URGL-ORP, RABIES, ADVENT

Berkeley: BRAVEAR, Eat It Up c, THE NATIONAL EMBROIDERER, TWISTED IMAGE, COMETBUS, GONE!, THE MONTHLY...BULLETIN, SCP NEWSLETTER & JOURNAL, HIGH FRONTIERS / MUTATOR, DIRECT ACTION, THE LETTER EXCHANGE, YELLOW SILK, GREEN LETTER, TOPICAL TIME

Seattle: ADOPT-A-BEACH NEWSLETTER, WIGGANSNATCH, THREADBARE, MAINSTREAM, NORTHWEST NUCLEAR XCHANGE, SEATTLE STAR, EELSKIN COMIX, STORM WARNING, AVANT-GARDE WORLD, HOLISTIC ANIMAL NEWS, MANZINE, HERETICS JOURNAL, NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER, THE NEW TIMES, PIGS PLOT, CATALYST, OFF THE DEEP END, CEREBRAL DISCOURSE, EARSHOT

$$

QUESTION:

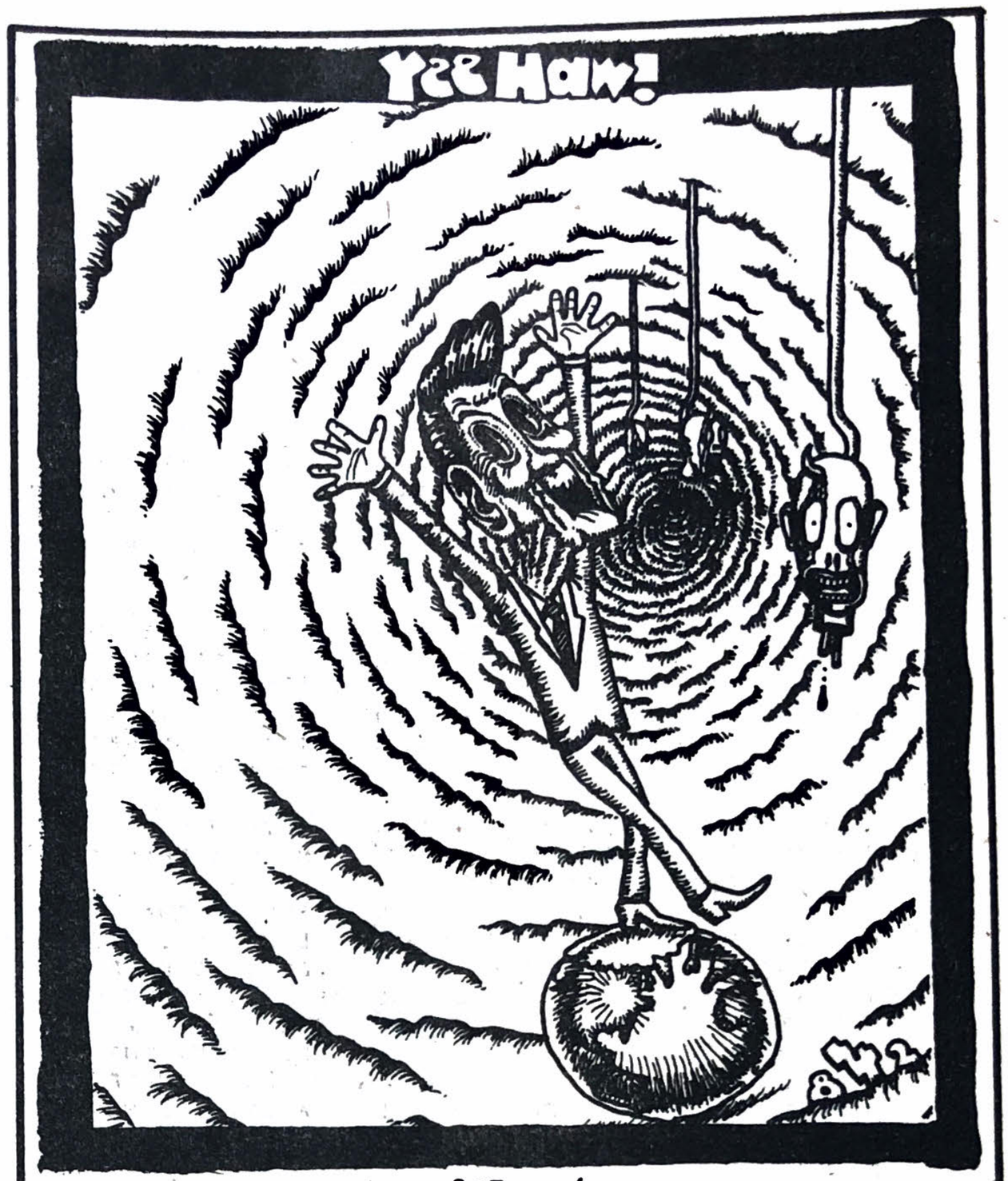
You ask the reader to send a SASE to war-ending (men, women) losers, winners (chance-selected) war-waging strategy or simply WINNERS What's war-ending about that?

ANSWER:

Maybe Billy Graham's right — there will be wars and rumors of wars. I usually add 90% to the war-ending because the main reason for 90% of the wars is the suicidal wars of the past — no winners. If we wers to fight Russia and our fallen men and women triggered chance-selected winners the front-line Russian soldiers might question their nation's socialism as we did ours. To end socialism and wars (90%) send S.A.S.E. to:

WINNERS — Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

$$



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From Dada To Class War — Ten Minutes That Shook Cheque Book Journalism

Ever since "grown up men" started reading Lautreaumont there has existed a confusion between art (a way of looking at the world) and politics (a way of making other people look at the world in the same way as you). First the futurists conceived art as a sensational event, then, haveing failed to live up to their own apocalyptic vision they proceeded to parody themselves until they were assimilated into Italian Fascism.

In the meantime dada had made its first anarchic appearance in Zurich and was spreading like gangrene through the urbanised West. Dada had inherited its mixture of nihilism and narcissism, which found expression in scandalising bourgeois newspapers, directly from the futurists. Where dada differed from futurism was in preaching proletarian revolution rather than nationalism as the means of focussing its destructive urges.

In 1924, when a parish priest of the imagination, popularly known as Pope Andre Breton, renamed dada surrealism, he dealt it a blow from which it never recovered. However it took Breton five years to effectively kill it which he finally achieved with a deadly injection of Troskyite ideology. Soon after several of his cohorts departed for the Holy Church of Stalinism.

The corpse of dada rotted malignantly from 1930 until the late 1940's when several avant garde groups attempted to resurrect it. These included COBRA, an international group of abstract painters whose membership was partially inherited from the Brussels surrealist group, and the Lettrists, a group of Parisians based around Isadore Isou and Maurice Lemaitre. After COBRA disintigrated, some of its members, most notably Asger Jorn, involved themselves with the International Movement For An Imaginist Bauhaus. It was from a merger of the Imaginist Bauhaus with the left wing of the Lettrists that the Situationist International was founded in 1957.

Through a massive dose of subjectivity the Situationists managed to convince themselves and a few students that they had superceeded art and paved the way for the replacement of the society of the spectacle with workers councils via the revolution of everyday life. Nothing could be further from the truth. What the Situationists had actually achieved was the supercession of art with literature. As this became increasingly apparant in the aftermath of May '68, the SI disintigrated.

The wreckage of the SI's pseudo-radicality was appropriated by Malcolm McClaren and his cohort Jamie Reid via the renegade situationist Christopher Gray. It was then marketed for commercial profit as punk rock.

There were several parallel developments from the heritage of dada during the post-war years. These include Nuclear Art, Gutai, Nouveaux Realisme, Gruppe Zero, and perhaps most important Fluxus. Fluxus formed around a pseudo-radical position in art and politics during the autumn of 1962. At their concerts violins were polished and then smashed rather than played, and successive keys on a piano would be nailed down to create "very new music". The instruments thus broken now change hands for ridiculous prices.

At the end of the sixties Fluxus further degenerated into mail art, a system whereby "artists" send each other "works of art" through the post because they can't get rid of them in any other way. Genesis P. Orridge took the "heritage" of Fluxus to Industrial Music via mail art. Accordingly Industrial Music is a genre which is to punk, what punk was to hippy, and surrealism to dada. A negation of a negation of a negation of nothing, in a strictly undialectical sense.

Today there are many groups, both artistic and political, who have inherited something of this tradition. The two which have so most noticeably are the Neoists and Class War. Both are dadaist in that they would stoop to anything to achieve a little scandalised press coverage. The Neoists play the art stage. One of them recently went as far as pointing out to an attendant that he had thrown his blood over an art gallery wall. He had hoped that this action would get him arrested. He was disappointed. Class War play the political stage and do far better than the Neoists in terms of media coverage. Like Malcolm McClaren's punk puppets they are true heirs of dada.

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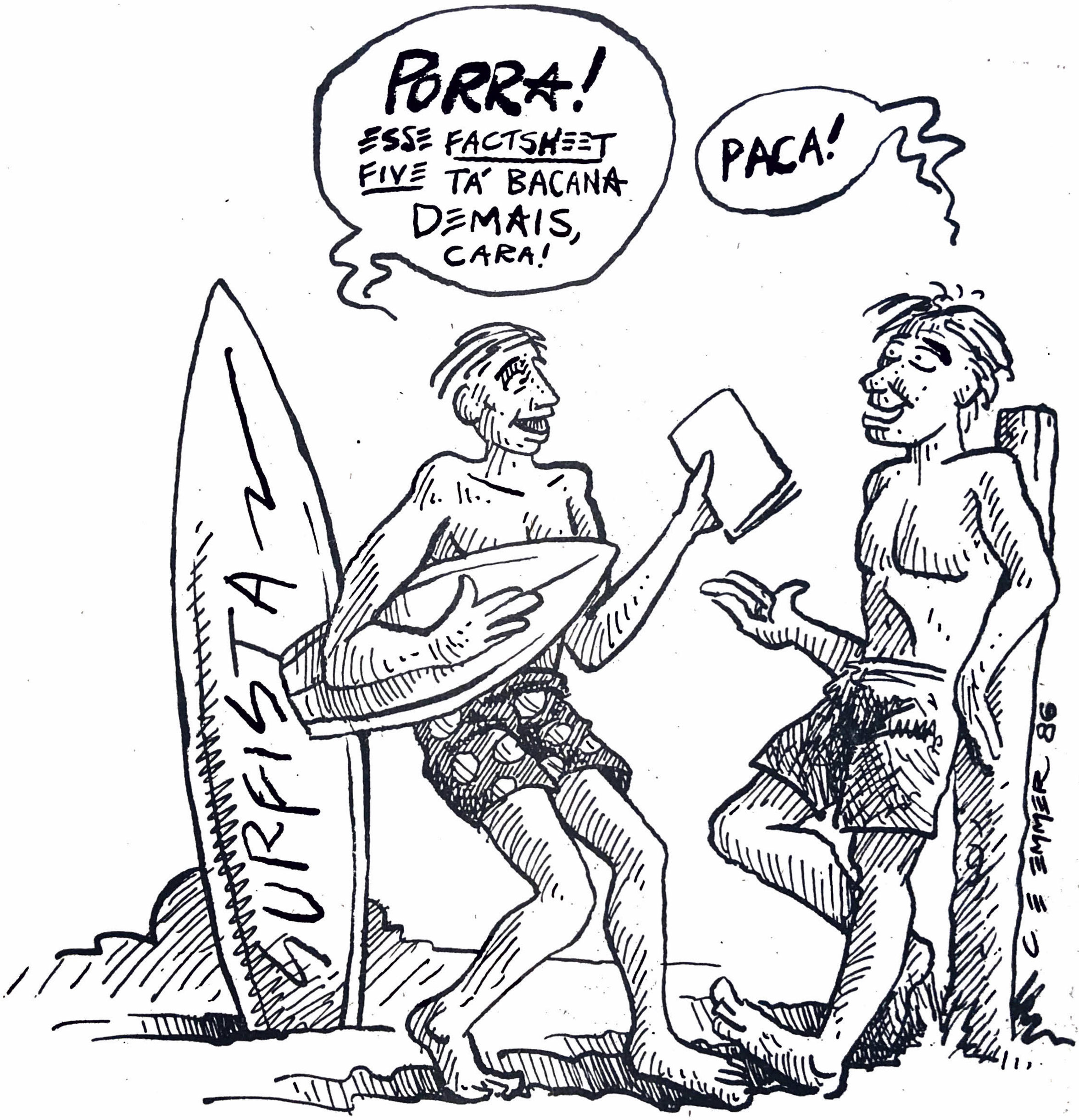
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